City of West Chicago

West Chicago, IL

Mayor Ruben Pineda

Pledge Summary

West Chicago is a diverse, family-oriented community with a population of roughly 25,600. The City is located approximately 30 miles west of the City of Chicago, with a rich cultural mix and a proud heritage. Mayor Pineda's commitment to saving the monarch butterfly started in 2017 when he signed his first Mayor's Monarch Pledge. He looks forward to continuing efforts to educate the public on the importance of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, and demonstrate how the community can help save them by planting native milkweed and other pollinator-friendly native nectar plants.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Daniel Bovey	2026	3/26/2026	

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Mayor Ruben Pineda	2025	3/24/2025	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2023	4/28/2023	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2022	1/21/2022	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2021	3/5/2021	Signatories

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

3000

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

750 youth; 2,250 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.01

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

City Hall

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

n/a

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

Previous initiative.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

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n/a

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

The City annually hosts a Blooming Fest event that provides an opportunity for the community and other within the region to purchase native plants, including milkweed, to plant and cultivate at their homes. Many of our residents continue to add native plants to their personal home gardens to assist with the City's conservation efforts.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

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Main Street, near City Hall

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0.03

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

n/a

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Annually maintained.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Over 5,000 are sold annually

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2500

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

West Chicago Garden Club

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

West Chicago City Hall

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

West Chicago Environmental Commission

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What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.1

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

West Chicago City Council; West Chicago Environmental Commission

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

10

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City dedicated the front corner of it's municipal parking lot towards a native plant garden to specifically attract and conserve monarch butterflies.

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