# City of West Chicago

West Chicago, IL

Mayor Ruben Pineda

## Pledge Summary

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Daniel Bovey | 2026 | 3/26/2026 | |
| 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.).**

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4500

**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.)**

3000 adults and 1500 youth

**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

**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.**

Our community members continue to establish their own gardens, and the City has initiated a Master Plan for a new community park that will have area of natural habitat installed as part of the process. This initiative is anticipated to occur within the next two years.

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

West Chicago's community has a large Hispanic or Latino population (estimated at 48.5% by U.S. Census), providing the City with an opportunity to leverage the Program to engage multiple cultures.

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

Many of the City's community members have an origin from Michoacán, Mexico, which has a very large role in the monarch butterfly migration.

**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?**

The website has been helpful.

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

Community art projects continue to incorporate monarch butterfly references.

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# 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.**

In 2023, the West Chicago City Council approved a Community Park Master Plan after extensive work with its consultant, City staff, and community members. This Plan outlines the various phases that will span over an extended timeframe to bring to life a new community park. As part of the Plan, the initial phase will consist of establishing a natural planting area. This is expected to commence in one to two years. Visit the City's website at https://westchicago.org/kerrmcgee/ to view the Community Park Master Plan, read archived news surrounding the development of the new park, or to view the various outreach efforts with the community for the project.

## 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)**

Approximately 5,000 plants, including perennials, shrubs, trees, and vegetables, were available for the City's Blooming Fest event plant sale. The sale exceeded its fundraising goal of $10,000, netting $13,727 which will more than cover the West Chicago Garden Club's annual budget for 2024.

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

3500

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

The City of West Chicago organized Blooming Fest annually, and the community's garden club, West Chicago Garden Club, organizes a large plant sale that occurs during the event. Additionally, over 60 vendors fill the downtown streets and sell various items, including items specific to garden enthusiasts.

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

**Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.**

Photo of Mayor Pineda at Monarch Station.jpg

**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)**

The City manages a demonstration garden area outside its City Hall facility located at 475 Main Street, West Chicago, Illinois, 60185.

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

The City of West Chicago installed the garden, which was commemorated by the Mayor of West Chicago after its installation.

**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.**

0.01

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