City of West Chicago

West Chicago, IL

Mayor Ruben Pineda

Pledge Summary

Located in the Western Suburbs along Illinois Route 59, the City of West Chicago is a community on the western edge of DuPage County that borders Illinois' Tri-City area, and is best known for its historical significance as the first Illinois community established by the railroads. 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. West Chicago boasts open green spaces, connections to trails systems such as the Illinois Prairie Path, and the West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve containing over 600 species of native plants and animals within the 358-acre region that is owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. 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 engage with the community leaders and volunteers 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 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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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.).

7

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.)

0

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.

In 2025, the City installed a Monarch Waystation at the Metra Station Commuter Parking Lot

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

The City is leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color by continue to provide bilingual communication in both English and Spanish on City's flyers, social media, and website. The City also provides Spanish translation accommodations during it's public open houses.

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

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The City's Environmental Commission is the Community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

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 Mayor's Monarch Pledge website and its contents, such as various guides for roadside treatment and maintenance, are the most useful.

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

The City's Environmental Commission and City staff continued to maintain the original Monarch Waystation at the City hall.

Selected Action Items

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.

The City continued to work with developers and designers to incorporate and create monarch habitat for its projects such as the proposed Community Park – Phase 0 and for the site development for the proposed Water Tower.

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.

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

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

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

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

image000005.jpg

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

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

IMG_1020.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)

N/A

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

Images are attached from the new Monarch Waystation at the Metra Station Commuter Parking Lot and continued maintenance of the Waystation at the City Hall.

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

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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Median of the Metra Station Commuter Parking Lot located at 41°52'53.2"N 88°11'52.3"W

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

111

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.

0.2

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The maintenance is completed bi-annually around spring and fall timeframe.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

New program was not launched; however, the effort was completed by in-house City staff and the volunteers from the City's Environmental Commission.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

7

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

N/A

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

N/A

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field

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(e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

0

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

City’s Environmental Commission

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

The maintenance is completed bi-annually around spring and fall timeframes.

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