



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Manager - Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 6, 2017

Re: Resolution to sign National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and join Missourians for Monarchs collaborative

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared a resolution to sign the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and join the Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative. Signing the Mayors for Monarchs pledge identifies Columbia as one of the communities in the United States that is dedicated to conservation. In addition, the City will effect major conservation decisions within Missouri regarding pollinating species by participating in the Missourians for Monarchs collaborative.

Discussion

A section of Columbia's vision for the environment is to work together to conserve all of the community's natural resources. By joining national and statewide conservation efforts the City can demonstrate to the public that it is committed to the conservation of our ecosystem. Monarch butterflies and other pollinators have suffered massive population declines due to several reasons including habitat loss, disease, large-scale pesticide use and many more. Monarch butterflies have captivated the United States people and instill in the public a desire to learn more about our natural environment. Riding on this wave of compassion for a tiny migratory insect, many national and statewide groups have created programs to turn peoples' feelings into actions. This resolution is for the City to participate in two different conservation efforts known as the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors for Monarchs Pledge program and the Missourians for Monarchs collaborative.

The National Wildlife Federation is a national organization that focuses on wildlife conservation and education to ensure that our natural resources remain a priority for Americans. The Mayors for Monarchs pledge commits cities and municipalities to conserve habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinating species. By signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge the City agrees to complete three or more action items presented by the National Wildlife Federation that work to restore native habitat. The first three action items that staff recommends Council to pursue are as follows: 1) plant a monarch-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent location, 2) expand invasive species removal programs to make it possible to re-establish native milkweed and nectar plants to the landscape, 3) launch a program to plant native milkweeds and nectar plants in school gardens by engaging students, teachers and the community. These action items must be completed and reported to the National Wildlife Federation within one year in order for the City to be recognized on the National Wildlife Federation's website as a Mayors for Monarchs city. By completing eight or more action items the City will receive special recognition and become a member of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle.

In addition to Mayors for Monarchs there also is the Missourians for Monarchs collaborative that consists of many different organizations including the Missouri Department



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of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cattleman's Association, Monsanto Corporation and many more. These statewide groups work together to answer some of the major conservation questions regarding pollinator species in Missouri. Joining the Missourians for Monarchs collaborative will help build relationships with new partners and allow the City to share with the Collaborative an urban perspective of conservation.

In conclusion, the City of Columbia can benefit from both the Mayors for Monarchs and Missourians for Monarchs programs. The objectives for both of these conservation initiatives are aligned with the City's current conservation efforts to restore monarch butterfly habitat and would supplement our current efforts by providing greater support.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No additional funds required.

Long-Term Impact: No additional funds required.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environment, Secondary Impact: Parks, Recreation & Greenways, Tertiary Impact: Education

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Sign the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and join the Missourians for Monarchs collaborative to help conserve vital habitat for monarch butterflies and other wildlife.