# Borough of Carnegie

Carnegie, PA

Mayor Samuel Bigham

## Pledge Summary

The Borough of Carnegie is located in southwestern Pennsylvania and has an estimated population of 8,000. The borough is home to the beautiful Carnegie Municipal Park as well as three additional community parks and rain gardens located throughout the business district. Mayor Bigham of Carnegie, PA is committed to continuing former Mayor Riley's commitment to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Mayor Bigham is signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the borough.

## Action Items Committed for 2026

### 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

## Past Pledge Archive

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| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Samuel Bigham | 2026 | 1/8/2026 | |
| Mayor Stacie Riley | 2025 | 12/11/2024 | Monarch Champions |
| Mayor Stacie Riley | 2024 | 12/5/2023 | Monarch Champions |
| Mayor Stacie Riley | 2023 | 12/8/2022 | Monarch Champions |
| Mayor Stacie Riley | 2022 | 12/15/2021 | Monarch Champions |
| Mayor Stacie Riley | 2021 | 3/29/2021 | Leadership Circle |

## 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.).**

600

**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.)**

56

**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.**

3

**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.**

Carnegie Borough Building, Carnegie Municipal Park, East and West Main Parking Lot Rain Gardens, Parklet on East and West Main Streets, Empty Lot on West Main, Community Garden, Andrew Carnegie Free Library, and private lawns.

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

Our butterfly festival took place at the farmers market where Fresh Access enables shoppers to use SNAP benefits. All events took place at walkable, accessible locations. Two HUD buildings and a rent subsidized senior building are also located nearby.

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

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Each year community interest increases among children and adults who are Carnegie residents as well as visitors from neighboring communities. The Pledge is very special to Mayor Sam Bigham and former Mayor Stacie Riley. Mayor Bigham is committed to continuing Mayor Riley's 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?**

NWF's online resources, webinars, meetings, and grants for plants as well as the NWF habitat certification program.

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

Each year we are excited about increased interest from all community segments including residents of all ages and the business community. We are thrilled with the interest in the NWF habitat certification program and Homegrown National Park.

## Selected Action Items

### Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

**How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).**

**Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).**

### 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.)

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

WebsiteScreenshots2026.jpg

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

Shade Tree Commission members participated at the Carnegie Library's annual Earth Day event where they gave away butterfly garden planting kits, educational material, and coloring books. Visitors were given contact information for Shade Tree members. Communications are made through printed materials available at the borough building, library, historical society, local businesses; social media - Facebook, NextDoor; online event listings; and flyers sent to local places of worship, school district and private schools. Monarch Butterfly booklets were passed out at our Butterfly Festival on August 23 along with native plant and milkweed care sheets. A-Frame signs were on display at the Monarch Butterfly Festival and Earth Day at the library. Our Monarch education page at https://carnegieborough.com/monarch/ contains animations explaining diet, migration, and history along with links to proclamations, milkweed map, and event photos.

## Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Carnegie's Shade Tree Commission has continued to reached out to Carnegie Highlands HOA about adding to existing milkweed and native nectars planted on the surrounding hillside.

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions implemented for mowing and maintenance programs.**

The Shade Tree Commission has worked with residents at various community events including the farmers market, butterfly festival, and Andrew Carnegie Free Library Earth Day celebration to provide education for the habitat certification program, as well as milkweed and native nectar planting that reduces mowing in private lawns.

## 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.**

Meetings with planning commission have continued for inclusion of monarch habitat, native planting, and climate action items in the new comprehensive plan.

## Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

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**Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.**

https://carnegieborough.com/monarch-butterfly-conservation/ and https://carnegieborough.com/rain-garden-virtual-classroom/ Our virtual classrooms were developed by administration, junior council, the Shade Tree Commission, and former Mayor Riley. Our goal is to educate the community on the importance of habitat creation, native plants, beneficial pollinators, and stormwater management. Sinch launching, we have engaged students at Carnegie Elementary, Carlynton High School, and the community at the Monarch Butterfly Festival and Earth Day at the Library and through the public art actions. Our new website provides translations in multiple languages to accommodate our diverse community that includes Ukrainian, Arabic, Spanish, and many Asian language speakers. Using the Environmental Justice Areas Viewer tool, Census Tract 4689 (population 3,641), Census Tract 4688 (population 2,553) and Census Tract 4687 (population 1,538) are not EJ areas. All students at the Carlynton School District are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program through grant funding. Our Monarch Education Program was made available to all Carlynton students. Elementary teachers and high school teachers used https://www.carnegieborough.com/monarch in their classrooms for exposure specifically to at least 420 students. Our former and current mayors, administrative staff, and shade tree commission members participated in monarch education activities at the Library's Earth Day celebration. Our Monarch Education Program is available to all Carnegie residents and is promoted through our website and social media, as well as events held by the Shade Tree Commission and the library. The Andrew Carnegie Free Library's programs and events specifically target low-income and immigrant communities, children, and seniors. They provide free internet access to residents who are unable to afford at-home service. The Shade Tree Commission gave away native nectars at our annual Monarch Festival that was promoted on social media and our website targeting all residents of all abilities and incomes. Our annual Butterfly Festival took place in a parking lot adjacent to our Farmers Market. Each week, the Farmers Market draws hundreds of low-income and senior shoppers who utilize SNAP benefits through Fresh Access and senior coupons. All shoppers had easy and ADA access to the Butterfly Festival from the Farmers Market. This location is also a short walking distance from two HUD buildings and two senior buildings.

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

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

500

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

Mayor Sam Bigham, former Mayor Stacie Riley, Shade Tree Commission, Carnegie Library, Carnegie Elementary PTA

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

450

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed

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

Mayor Sam Bigham, Shade Tree Commission, Carnegie Library

**Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.**

Carnegie Library Earth Day Celebration - visitors were instructed how and when to collect the seeds and when to replant. This project is in progress.

## Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

**Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.**

Carnegie's Shade Tree Commission volunteers have maintained the butterfly garden at our municipal building, assisted with the native nectar garden at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, and have been busy planting at our Irishtown community garden. Native nectar producing plants were given away at our annual butterfly festival to residents and garden groups. Shade Tree president Gina James has been working on the NWF habitat certification program. The Andrew Carnegie Library native nectar pollinator garden had its first full bloom spring of 2026. https://communitywildlifehabitat.nwf.org/Community?communityId=403
https://www.facebook.com/groups/homegrownnationalparkofficial/posts/1373803624876137/

## 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.

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

Carnegie_Wildlife_Community_Certification_Infographic.pdf

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

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Mayor Sam Bigham, Carnegie Shade Tree Commission, Staff and Board members of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, and students Western PA Conservancy

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

Several discussions with Shade Tree members on native plants, milkweed, maintenance education and pollinator habitat conservation with Mayor Bigham, borough administration, public works department, and residents. Trees were again planted this year near pollinator gardens throughout the Borough including at Carnegie Municipal Park by WPC and the Shade Tree Commission. We again earned Tree City Status for the 13th year in a row. Shade Tree president Gina James has met with community members and gardeners and has spoken with the Western PA Conservancy in regards to the NWF Habitat Certification program. All Shade Tree Commission members and volunteers have been working on our community garden planting Monarch friendly plants, native nectars, and vegetables. Murals were completed and are viewable from our Irishtown playground and the community garden. https://wp-gx9xwqzsmh.pairsite.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Carnegie_Wildlife_Community_Certification_Infographic.pdf https://www.facebook.com/groups/homegrownnationalparkofficial/posts/1373803624876137/ https://carnegiecarnegie.org/event/native-plants-teaching-garden-grand-opening/

## Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Stormwater-Management-Bioretention-ParkingLots2.pdf

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

Carnegie Shade Tree Commission (9), Carnegie Community Development Corporation (4), Community Volunteers (8), Carnegie Borough Administration (1), Carnegie Borough Public Works Department (3), Andrew Carnegie Free Library (8), Eagle Scout Jack Keeney, Carnegie Elementary PTA (3), Girl Scouts (7).

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.**

The Shade Tree Commission along with Mayor Sam Bigham continues to plant and maintain milkweed in our East and West Main Street Rain Gardens, Parklets on East and West Main Street, a monarch garden at the borough building, Carnegie Park Rain Gardens, and various public spaces. They continued discussions on garden maintenance with the Carnegie Public Works Department. Members of the department completed maintenance in July directed by a maintenance plan created in 2021 with input from our Shade Tree Commission, Western PA Conservancy, and Landforce. Volunteers from the CCDC, PTA, and Girl Scouts worked with staff and board members of the library to

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maintain the native nectar garden there. https://www.carnegieborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Stormwater-Management-Bioretention-ParkingLots2.pdf

## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

**Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)**

511 Diamond Alley

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

Mayor Sam Bigham, Carnegie Shade Tree Commission, Borough Manager and Administration

**What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.**

0.13

**How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)**

1

**Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.**

Milkweed was planted during the summer of 2025 and spring 2026. Soil testing was completed in 2025. Planting of native nectars began in 2025 and continued throughout 2026. Monarch friendly bushes and vegetables in 2026. We are trying to obtain funding to plant in 4 additional locations.

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

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

NativePlantRoadside2026.pdf

**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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The Shade Tree Commission and volunteers planted periodically throughout the spring. Borough administration maintains a milkweed map for the community. Skatepark Rain Garden, Veterans Memorial at Carnegie Park Behind Outer Fence at Dog Park East Main Rain Garden medians East Main Parklet right of way Lot Next to Historical Society West Main Parklet right of way Carnegie Borough Building Plants include: Coneflowers, Cardinal Flowers, Mexican Sunflowers, Blue Mistflower, New England Asters, Salvia, Hyssop, English Lavender, Spanish Lavender, Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Showy Milkweed https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1d2UyKBpv_-oGzCuHy6t3NfTbrfk6wks&ll=40.40528096975207%2C-80.08301325&z=16

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

82

**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.**

1

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

Carnegie Department of Public Works Page 9-14 https://www.carnegieborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Stormwater-Management-Bioretention-ParkingLots2.pdf

## Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

Carnegie_Zoning_Ordinance-FINAL.pdf

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

Carnegie Borough Council, Code Enforcement, Planning Commission, Mayor

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

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November 13, 2017 - pages 26-27

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

NA

## Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Shade Tree Commission, Public Works, former Mayor Riley, Carnegie Borough Council

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

This has been the policy of the borough for decades. We are unable to find an exact date.

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

NA

## Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Borough Administration and Climate Action Task Force

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

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August 8, 2022 - adopted by council

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

The borough has been implementing climate actions since 2022 and native planting and monarch conservation efforts since 2021. https://carnegieborough.com/iniatives/climate-action-plan-environmental-literacy/ https://carnegieborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Carnegie_LCAP_August1-2022.pdf

## Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Shade Tree Commission, Climate Action Task Force, Mayor Riley, Public Works Department

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

in progress

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

October, 2021 - https://carnegieborough.com/documents/Stormwater-ManagementBioretention-ParkingLots2.pdf - August, 2022 Climate Action Plan https://www.carnegieborough.com/documents/Carnegie_LCAP_August1-2022.pdf

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

This action is always in progress. Rain Garden Maintenance Policy - used in all raingardens in the borough including East and West Main Parking Lots, Carnegie Park, and the borough building. All rain gardens are monarch butterfly habitat gardens. Climate Action Plan Native planting - pages 10, 29, 30, 40, 42, 44, 48, 49

## Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

in progress

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

NA

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

Mayor Sam Bigham and former Mayor Staie Riley and the borough manager have discussed with the planning commission on inclusion in our next comprehensive plan which is currently in the planning stage. Planning commission members and community attendees were very receptive to the idea. This is an ongoing initiative. The borough continues to plant native trees and nectars each year and encourages residents to do the same.

## Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

Planning Commission and Shade Tree Commission

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

October 22, 2021

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

The Shade Tree Commission, Land Force and the Western PA Conservancy collaborated to create a rain and butterfly garden maintenance plan and met with Carnegie's public works department to review the plan.

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## Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

The Borough of Carnegie does not have a noxious plant list

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

The Borough of Carnegie does not have a noxious plant list

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

The Borough of Carnegie does not have a noxious plant list

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

The Borough of Carnegie does not have a noxious plant list

## Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

**What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.**

4

**Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.**

Each spring, summer, and fall our department of public works removes poison sumac, oak and ivy from parks, public rain and butterfly gardens. Public works employees cut and pull invasive plants by hand. They do not use pesticides or insecticides. Protective measures include gloves, long sleeves, vests, hats, and masks. Each year 1-2 employees report reactions to the poisonous plants at our safety meetings and on rare occasion have to visit Urgent Care for prescription treatment. Public works employees report that the bulk of poisonous plants are removed from the East and West Main rain/butterfly gardens.

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

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

Shade Tree Commission and volunteers

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

60

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

More than 60 new native plants were added to the planters along East Main Street creating a linear pollinator garden. It is maintained and planted by the Shade Tree Commission and volunteers.

## Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

**How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).**

800

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

Shade Tree Commission, Carnegie Library, Carlynton students, Carnegie Borough Administration, Mayor Stacie Riley, State Rep Anita Kulik

**Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.**

Mayor Sam Bigham, administrative borough staff, and Shade Tree Commission volunteers supplied educational material, coloring pages, milkweed seeds, wildflower seeds, and gardening supply bags to promote monarch butterfly conservation at the Carnegie Library Earth Day Celebration (Saturday, April 18, 2026) at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library. Mayor Sam Bigham and Shade Tree Commission provided educational information, native nectars, watering cans, and watering bulbs at our Monarch Butterfly Festival held on August 23, 2026. Both events included art projects, face painting, environment-themed coloring books and crayons. Attendees were encouraged to watch for Monarchs and many have reported to borough staff and the Shade Tree Commission on their findings. Residents, borough administration, and Shade Tree Commission members verbally reported and discussed increases in Monarch caterpillar and butterfly sightings at the butterfly festival. A few reported and discussed a decrease.

## Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to

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## increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

**How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).**

150

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

Shade Tree Commission, Carlynton students

**When did this challenge take place?**

April 18, 2026

**What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.**

2

**Please describe your challenge and the results.**

Milkweed seeds were handed out with educational materials at the Carnegie Library. Recipients were challenged to monitor milkweed they planted at home and report to the Shade Tree Commission when eggs, caterpillars, and monarchs appear. Members of the Shade Tree Commission report that many of the milkweed recipients reported the numerous stages throughout the summer, especially in the Rosslyn Heights, Cubbage Hill, and Carnegie Park neighborhoods in Carnegie. Volunteers also discussed rain garden and Main Street planter clean up and planting events along with joining the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat program and certified gardens.

## Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Carnegie_Wildlife_Community_Certification_Infographic.pdf

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

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Carnegie Shade Tree Commission

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

NWF Habitat Certification Program - https://communitywildlifehabitat.nwf.org/Community?communityId=403

## 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).

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

Carnegie_Wildlife_Community_Certification_Infographic.pdf

**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)**

Milkweed Plant Giveaway and Habitat Certification Program

**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)**

2

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

Carnegie Elementary and Carlynton High School

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

https://www.carnegieborough.com/monarch

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

200 students 6 educators

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

Shade Tree Commission, Carnegie Elementary PTA, Carlynton High School, Girl Scouts, Eagle Scout Jack Keeney, Andrew Carnegie Free Library

**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.**

1

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

https://www.carnegieborough.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Stormwater-Management-Bioretention-ParkingLots2.pdf

## 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:**

August 10, 2026

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

MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE DAY IN THE BOROUGH OF CARNEGIE

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

proclamation2026B-signed.pdf

## 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.**

LibraryGarden.pdf

**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)**

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Carnegie Borough Building, 1 Veterans Way, Carnegie, PA 15106 Andrew Carnegie Free Library, 300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106 Carnegie Community Garden, 511 Diamond Alley at Irishtown Park, Carnegie, PA 15106

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

Carnegie Shade Tree Commission and Department of Public Works completed extensive maintenance on this existing garden. Library Garden - The space was designed and constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Carlynton eleventh-grader Jackson Keeney, with financial support from the Gismondi Foundation and guidance from local native plants expert Chris Litherland. https://carnegiecarnegie.org/event/native-plants-teaching-garden-grand-opening/

**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.**

0.25

## Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Signage2.pdf

**How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

7

**Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).**

Andrew Carnegie Library native nectar garden a 300 Beechwood Avenue, Dog Park Rain Garden WPC Garden corner of Mansfield and Chartiers WPC Garden corner of Lydia and Chestnut East Main and West Main Parking Lot. An eighth sign will be added for the community garden in 2027

## Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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MayorBigham-MayorRiley.jpg

**How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)**

648

**What was the date of your festival?**

August 23, 2026

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

Shade Tree Commission, Carnegie Library, Carnegie Elementary PTA, Mayor Sam Bigham, former Mayor Stacie Riley, Volunteers, Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens, Borough Management and Administration

**Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).**

2026 FESTIVAL - Carnegie Shade Tree Commission members Gina James, Chris James, and Bill Moldovan handed out native nectars, milkweed, brochures, Monarch pins, watering cans and bulbs at Carnegie's 6th Annual Butterfly Festival. Monarch Princess Mary Grace Nichol spoke with children and posed for pictures. Artists and Shade Tree Commission members created art with visitors while Carnegie Elementary PTA members Laura Lenk and Becky Watkins painted faces. Paz and Ukulele Eddie played music, the library brought information on their native nectar garden. Milkweed plants grown by H3art Farms and native nectars grown by Bednar Farms. This year, a new addition, Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens had a table with PA native nectar and pollinator information along with giveaways. There were games for children including a giant CONNECT FOUR game along with sidewalk chalk where visitors of all ages drew Monarch butterflies.

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