City of Covington

Covington, KY

Mayor Joseph Meyer

Pledge Summary

Covington is a city located in Northern Kentucky across the river from Cincinnati. Covington is home to the beautiful 700 acre Devou Park that features prairies and pollinator gardens throughout. We also have a number of pollinator gardens in parks throughout our city. In 2017, Mayor Joseph Meyer signed a proclamation for the city to join the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Since then we have installed numerous gardens and formed a community monarch coalition that helps us carry out chosen action items. Mayor Joseph Meyer continues to support this effort by repledging in 2021.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.)
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Ronald Washington	2026	4/22/2026	
Mayor Ron Washington	2025	1/13/2025	Signatories
Mayor Joe Meyer	2024	3/8/2024	Signatories
Mayor Joe Meyer	2023	2/15/2023	Signatories
Mayor Joseph Meyer	2022	1/7/2022	Signatories
Mayor Joseph Meyer	2021	12/10/2020	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.).

100

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.)

Adults- 85 Youth-15

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.

0.02

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.

Neighborhood parks

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

Several of our gardens are located in low-income areas of our city. This means kids in these communities are seeing pollinators and engaging with these spaces. Some of these spaces have educational signage as well.

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

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Continuing to encourage as many citizens as possible to get passionate about helping the monarch and other pollinators.

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?

Resources for grant funding. All of our gardens were grant funded, because this work is not really prioritized city-wide.

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

COVID still has a big impact. It's tough to prioritize this work in low-income areas that are still facing serious problems from the ongoing pandemic.

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 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)

Our local school system,

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)

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

Latonia Elementary Glenn O. Swing Elementary John G. Carlisle Elementary

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

Provided monarch seeds from park gardens for them to germinate and learn how to propagate milkweed to help the monarch butterfly. Also helped the schools get in touch with monarch watch, they were awarded a flat of milkweed plugs to plant as well.

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).

100 students, 3 educators

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

Queen City Pollinator Program, Monarch watch, local schools

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.

0.1

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

The schools already have existing gardens and programs. We just plugged in to urge them to include milkweed plants for monarchs and explain the importance of this to the kids in the program already.

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

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

monarch tagging.jpg

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

tagging goebel.jpg

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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).

30

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

Northern Kentucky University, Keep Covington Beautiful, Monarch Watch

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

We hosted a tagging event one morning for a few hours at 3 park locations. https://www.rcnky.com/articles/2021/09/14/tagging-monarch-butterflies-planned-saturday-covington

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

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

MONARCH PLANT GIVEAWAY.jpg

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

150

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

50

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

Keep Covington Beautiful

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

5

What species were collected or propagated?

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Common milkweed, goldenrod, coneflower

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

Urban Forestry

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

More of an internal effort to collect, bag, tag, and propagate seeds by myself, another city worker, and seasonals for our existing garden beds and for future giveaways.

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.

Barb Cook Volunteer Planting.jpg

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

Barb Cook 1.jpg

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

Barb Cook 2.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)

Barb Cook Park

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

Rotary Club, Kentucky Waterways Alliance

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.

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0.02

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

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

Covington Natural Resource Crew.jpg

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

10 acres

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.

We had a contractor come in to remove some invasives in one of our detention basins. Myself and another city employee spent a few days at these sites removing invasives and collecting seeds as well. We mostly cut stump treated our cut by using a dobber. I had a small crew in the spring that I worked with to foliar spray poison hemlock and other invasives.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Hands Pike Park.jpg

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

detention basin.jpg

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

Randolph park sign.jpg

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

4

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

The signs explain the importance of pollinator habitat creation to help the declining monarch populations. One of the signs also has some details about the environmental services a detention basin provides.

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.)

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Monarch Press Release.jpg

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

Press releases and news media. https://www.covingtonky.gov/news/2021/04/01/mission-save-the-monarch https://www.rcnky.com/articles/2021/09/14/tagging-monarch-butterflies-planned-saturday-covington https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2021/09/18/covington-couple--environmental-scientists-tag--track-monarch-butterflies https://www.covingtonky.gov/news/2021/09/14/fluttery-journey-of-a-thousand-miles https://www.nkytribune.com/2021/10/today-at-goebel-park-pollinator-garden-in-covington-you-can-get-free-perennial-plants-for-your-garden/

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