City of Covington

Covington, KY

Mayor Joe Meyer

Pledge Summary

Covington is located in Northern Kentucky directly across the river from Cincinnati. Covington has just over 40,000 residents and 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 2023.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Past Pledge Archive

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

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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.).

200

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.)

50 youth and 150 adults

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.

There was no new habitat created only maintained

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

Most of the areas where the gardens are located are in marginalized communities

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

To make a more sustainable world and give a unique opportunity to the community

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?

Educational sessions online or in person. Im relatively new to the role and I really rely on outside organizations that help us. Some information on what other programs have had

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success with and what not to do would be very beneficial.

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

N/A

Selected Action Items

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.

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

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.

KCB Maintenance.jpg

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

Keep Covington Beautiful Public Works Parks and Recreation

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

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We engaged with public works to correct their mowing habits and patterns to keep clippings and unwanted debris out of the garden beds. Also worked with Keep Covington Beautiful to maintaining the garden beds and planting new native nectar plants.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator Signage.jpg

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

3

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

Information about the garden beds and why pollinators are important to us.

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.

2 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.

The city hired a local contractor to remove honeysuckle and invasive clover. They mainly used hand tools and herbicide where needed.

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

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

KCB.jpg

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

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Keep Covington Beautiful and Volunteers form the city

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Recreation staff along with Keep Covington Beautiful and volunteers planted milkweed and other nectar producing plants in one of our pollinator gardens that had received a little less attention. Plants were donated to the city through one of the community partners.

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

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)

Goebel Park at 501 Philadelphia St. Covington, Ky 41011, which is home to our largest pollinator garden

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

Keep Covington Beautiful

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.

.5

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