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 2024.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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

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.

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
Mayor Joseph Meyer	2022	1/7/2022	Signatories
Mayor Joseph Meyer	2021	12/10/2020	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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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.).

500

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

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.

0.05

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.

Public park (502-16 E 15th St, Covington, KY 41014

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

We focused on Austinburg Neighborhood Park, which is located in a historically Black neighborhood, by redeveloping the park and creating pollinator gardens and waystations in the area. Working with residents and local organizations, we have created opportunities for residents in that area to engage and learn about nature and pollinator gardens. These efforts aim to connect environmental stewardship with community pride and engagement.

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

Our community is motivated by a desire to protect monarchs and enhance our local environment for future generations. The pledge has brought us together with a formal structure to make a positive impact on our ecosystem.

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 resource page has been invaluable in providing the tools we needed to succeed. Moving forward, we'd benefit from resources on volunteer recruiting and multilingual or kids

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materials to better engage non-English-speaking volunteers and kid volunteers and ensure equitable participation in our conservation efforts.

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

As a small but passionate team, we've worked hard to expand pollinator gardens, host events, and engage the community. Our dedication has built partnerships and inspired residents to join us in protecting monarchs and creating a greener community.

Selected Action Items

Create a community art project to enhance and promote 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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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

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

We partnered with Keep Covington Beautiful, Covington Parks and Recreation, and community volunteers to host/execute this event and project.

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).

10

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).

We created a painted mural depicting the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. The mural is on display near the Goebel Park pollinator garden and community garden (501 Philadelphia St, Covington, KY 41011). This installation highlights the importance of the monarch conservation while fostering cultural awareness by connecting the community to the natural environment through art.

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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.

IMG_5497.jpg

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

IMG_5815.jpg

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

IMG_5657.jpg

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

IMG_5658.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)

We planted a new demonstration garden that is located at the newly redeveloped Austinburg Neighborhood Park in Covington, KY (502-16 E 15th St, Covington, KY 41014) This park was chosen due to its prominent role in the community as a revitalized space that promotes outdoor activities and neighborhood gatherings. The location's redevelopment reflects the importance of transformation and renewal, which aligns with the monarch butterfly's journey. This new garden serves as a connection for the community to engage with nature and foster an appreciation for pollinators.

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

To complete this effort, we worked and partnered with local community organizations such as the Center for Great Neighborhoods, Covington Parks and Recreation, and volunteer groups like Fidelity.

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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.

0.05

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.

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

The participating organizations and groups included, the City of Covington Public Works, the City of Covington Urban Forestry, the City of Covington Parks and Recreation, the City of Covington Solid Waste and Recycling, Keep Covington Beautiful, The Center for Great Neighborhoods

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

Each group had a voice in discussions about revising maintenance and planting programs, to ensure that each group was utilized in ways. that best supported the mission. The City of Covington Public Works and Urban Forestry teams managed mowing and general maintenance surrounding the pollinator gardens. Covington Parks and Recreation, along with Solid Waste and Recycling, focused on the intricate work within the gardens, such as ensuring their health, removing invasive plants, and maintaining adherence to pollinator waystation qualifications. Keep Covington Beautiful and The Center for Great Neighborhoods provided additional support by coordinating programming and volunteer efforts to enhance the gardens and expand community involvement.

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