BIDDEFORD

BIDDEFORD, ME

Mayor Alan Casavant

Pledge Summary

Biddeford is a city of about 21,000 people. It is located in southern Maine, along the Atlantic coast, and it shares the Saco River with its Twin City of Saco. It is home to the University of New England, and, in the past few years, has been witnessing amazing redevelopment in its downtown and mill district. Once the home of a world famous textile industry, the brick buildings of the old mills have been transformed into housing, restaurants, distilleries, breweries, artist studios, and more. The Mayor of the City, in partnership with the city's many volunteers, has pledged to create habitat for the preservation of the Monarch butterfly.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Liam Lafountain	2026	2/27/2026	
Mayor Martin Grohman	2025	3/10/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Martin Grohman	2024	2/1/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Alan Casavant	2023	2/18/2023	Signatories

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Alan Casavant	2022	2/25/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Alan Casavant	2021	4/27/2021	Signatories

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.)

25 youth/75 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.

2

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.

Small, but highly visible, garden at Main Street bank parking lot. Pierson's Lane Children's Garden. Mechanics Park flower garden. Mission Hill Community Garden. Rotary Park Community Garden. Washington Street School Park triangle garden. Williams Court Community Garden. APEX Youth Connection.

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

Biddeford Community Gardens is building a new community garden, slated to open spring of 2022. This garden is in one of our city's larger city parks, which is next door to a low income housing complex, where 60% of the residents are New Americans. We are in the process of reaching out to this community to get them involved in the garden and in preserving much of the natural habitat that surrounds the garden proper.

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

Helping youth become aware of the plight of the Monarch Butterfly and keeping them engaged in caring for their environment. Our hope is to call attention to the damage that

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]

mowing and keeping green lawns is so bad for the environment. Encouraging our city government to reconsider how it maintains our public green spaces. To stop mowing and letting much of our public green spaces naturalize to native habitat.

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?

Our local library. More social media about this effort. Increased education in our schools. More out of doors schooling getting kids out in nature.

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

The Mayors' Monarch Challenge came about when one of our city councilors reached out to me to approach our Mayor. Our Mayor enthusiastically signed the Pledge, and we proceeded to take some small but important steps to saving and creating native habitat for the Monarch and other pollinators so important to our environment and to the planet and its inhabitants.

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:

4/20/21

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

Save the Monarch

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge.pdf

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

3

What species were collected or propagated?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]

Milkweed, Echinacea, and Meadow Rue

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

Service Works (from their website: 'the Service Works program organizes community service projects for young people making amends for non-violent offenses as a positive alternative to juvenile justice system involvement or school suspension or expulsion.')

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

Worked with one youth from Service Works and her mentor to sort, save, and package Milkweed, Echinacea, and Meadow Rue for use in spring of 2022.

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.

Seed Starting.jpg

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

BSB Garden - A.jpg

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

Monarch garden - A.jpg

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

Milkweed.jpg

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

WSSP Garden - A.jpg

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

Monarch caterpillar -- B.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Sunflower seeds.jpg

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

On behalf of Biddeford's mayor, we engaged with our city's McArthur Library, APEX Youth Connection, and our city's Adopt a Park program. We also participated in Yellow Tulip Project's planting of 2,000 yellow tulip bulbs for 2022 spring bloom.

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

2250

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We partnered with McArthur Library and area schools on a Sunflower trail, putting together sunflower seed packets for school children and the library's clientele to take home for planting in their gardens, schools, and public spaces. Organized a walk-about town searching for green space for planting sunflowers and other pollinator plants. APEX Youth Connection's Trek2Connect program students started seeds in the spring for transplanting into a garden bed at the Biddeford Savings Bank's Main Street parking lot. University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine students maintained many milkweed and other pollinator plants within a prominent flower garden at Mechanics Park as part of their volunteer hours with our city's Adopt a Park program. Grew milkweed in two raised beds at Biddeford Community Gardens' children's garden at Pierson's Lane Playground. Through Biddeford's Adopt a Park program, we encouraged the growth of milkweed and other pollinator plants and had support of our city's Public Works and Parks department. Partnered with the Yellow Tulip Project to plant 2,000 yellow tulip bulbs at our schools, public parks, and community gardens.

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.

Biddeford Community Gardens partnered with APEX Youth Connection's Trek2Connect youth group on this effort. We also partnered with McArthur Library, and our city's Adopt a Park program.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]

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

9 - Biddeford Community Gardens, APEX Youth Connection's Trek2Connect, Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center, Service Works, McArthur Library, University of New England's College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNE's Office of Citizenship, UNE's Muslim Student Association, Creative Work Systems - Each organization had a hand in planting and maintaining pollinator plants in our city's greenspaces.

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

This effort took place over the spring and summer with groups planting and tending their gardens, or maintaining existing native habitats.

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.

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

York County Master Gardener Volunteer program Biddeford Adopt a Park program APEX Youth Connection's Trek2Connect program Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center Biddeford Public Works Department

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

York County Master Gardeners volunteered in our Pierson's Lane Children's Garden educating young children about the Monarch Butterfly and the milkweed and other pollinator plants, which help to sustain them, and maintaining two milkweed garden beds. Biddeford Adopt a Park program participants planted and helped to maintain pollinator gardens in our city parks. This effort included one of its newest adopter groups, our high school's Alternative Pathways Center. Youth planted flowers in the park they adopted this year. Teens from APEX Youth Connection's Trek2Connect program did a walk-about in the downtown searching for vacant city and private green spaces in which to plant milkweed and other pollinator plants. They started seeds at their facility and planted the seedlings at their location and at other pre-determined locations. Ongoing conversations with our public works department about restoring some of the highly landscaped areas of our city parks to native habitat. This has been met with interest and support and this discussion is ongoing. Attaching a link to a local news story about our efforts.
https://www.pressherald.com/2021/05/06/monarch-butterfly-populations-to-get-a-boost-from-biddeford/

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u245:v1.14.0.49966]