BIDDEFORD

BIDDEFORD, ME

Mayor Alan Casavant

Pledge Summary

Biddeford is a thriving coastal city of 22,000 residents. Situated along the Saco river, our city boasts 241 acres of public parks, nature trails, and perennial and community vegetable gardens. In year two of our Mayor's Monarch Pledge, we remain strongly committed to saving the Monarch Butterfly by increasing the amount of monarch habitat in these greenspaces, as well as in other areas of the city.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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

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
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.).

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.)

300/300

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.

6

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.

city parks and roadsides, private yards, community gardens

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

through our Biddeford Community Gardens in two low-income neighborhoods

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

There is a strong commitment to saving the Monarch Butterfly and other important pollinators. Our city is re-evaluating its mowing program, allowing for rewilding some of our public spaces.

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?

Learning about other communities' efforts.

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

This year (our second pledge year) we worked with the schools on a public art project involving the Monarch and other important pollinators. Over 300 kids participated. The artwork has been used in two public festivals and on a mural at a downtown intersection with high visibility.

Selected Action Items

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?

Biddeford Public Works

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

In discussion phase

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.

Mural - Monarch.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Mural - Event.jpg

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

SPF Prayer Flags.jpg

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

We held two community art projects to bring awareness to the Monarch butterfly and other important pollinators. We partnered with Forging Commons, Biddeford Schools, Engine Arts Non-profit, Bike Part Art, and Hydra Arts Collective.

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).

200

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).

Biddeford is host to RiverJam, an amazing annual summer art and music festival. A component of the festival was a community mural project led by a local artist and her student assistants. The mural is on a low wall at the foot of Hill Street, a busy connection with Main Street. The public was invited to participate in the actual mural process. The Prayer Flags have been used at our Spring Pollinator Festival and at our city's annual River Jam Festival. The pollinator signs were placed in our large community garden at Rotary Park.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

We have been given initial approval to create pollinator habitat on one of the city's unused corner lots. The soil is contaminated, however, with high concentrations of lead. Next step will be to apply for federal funding through a brownfields grant to clean up the lot.

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

City of Biddeford. Ongoing.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

1

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)

0

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

In planning phase.

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

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

Mechanics Park garden.jpg

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

Biddeford Adopt a Park, City of Biddeford, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine volunteers.

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.

No need for public policy. This garden is in one of our city parks and is maintained by Biddeford Adopt a Park volunteers as part of their contract.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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

SPF 2022 Poster.jpg

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

SPF1.jpg

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

SPF Library Table.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)

250

What was the date of your festival?

Saturday, May 21, 2022

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

Biddeford Community Gardens, Engine (our local arts non-profit), Hydra Collective, McArthur Library, Biddeford Ready, The Ecology School, APEX Youth Connection, Biddeford Climate Task Force, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Biddeford Adult Education, York County Beekeepers Association.

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).

Our first annual Spring Pollinator Festival was an incredible success bringing local organizations, businesses, and folks from various cultures together. This 'FREE' event was open to the public and held in Rotary Park, our city's biggest park 70+acres in size. The weather was perfect. All participants enjoyed the grassroots nature of it, music, cultural food tables, loads of activities from naturally dyed and screen-printed t-shirts, to starting seedlings, and making Monarch Butterfly Puppets with Bike Part Art. It was such a success that all who participated eagerly await planning for next year's festival.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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

We have had difficulty with locating the language and date of the proclamation and with turnover with our city staff, are unable to provide it at this time.

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.

Save the Monarchs.jpg

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

For the past four years. Biddeford Community Gardens has co-hosted with McArthur Public Library the 'Biddeford Gardens' series. In October, we had held a 'Save the Monarch' event, which was well-attended. Author Rebekah Lowell spoke about the plight of the Monarch and what we can do at a local level to preserve and protect their habitat.

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.

Presented at Saco Bay Gardening Club, asking members to reduce mowing and to plant milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants, trees, & shrubs.

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.

Seeds.jpg

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

100 packets of seeds

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

250

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

We held a Spring Pollinator Festival, which was attended by more than 250 people. We handed out seed packets. McArthur Library also handed out sunflower seed packets through our 'Biddeford Gardens' series.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Seeds.jpg

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

12

What species were collected or propagated?

Common milkweed, zinnia, coneflower, sea holly

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

Biddeford Community Gardens teams up regularly with Service Works (an organization that works with teens who are required to do community service). We harvested, sorted and saved milkweed, sea holly, beebalm, and coneflower.

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

Biddeford Community Gardens gardeners harvested seed. The seed was then sorted and packaged by Service Works youth. We have distributed our seeds this year at the fall Fringefest, McArthur Library, and a well-attended Maker's Faire, also this fall.

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

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

Biddeford Adopt a Park, City of Biddeford, APEX Youth Connection

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We had milkweed naturally popping up everywhere, in our community gardens, in our public gardens, in planters. They all thrived.

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

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

Meadow 1.jpg

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

Meadow 2.jpg

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

Meadow 3.jpg

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

Meadow 4.jpg

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

We asked the city to consider not mowing a large (2+ acre of land) which abuts one of our city parks. They bought the idea and now this land is reverting back to meadow. Also partnered with McArthur Library on year four of our Biddeford Gardens series. They provided the public with 100 'No Mow May' signs.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

Still in discussion and implementation phase. Mid-summer of 2023 projected completion date.

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.

This year, our city's public works department ceased mowing an approximate 5 acre parcel of land adjoining one of our city parks. The parcel has seen wild grasses and wildflowers return. During period of rain, there is an area which fills with water and pairs of Mallard ducks can be seen. Other organizations, including our public library, participated in the national No Mow May effort. The library printed signs, which were distributed widely.

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

Meetings held in early spring resulted in the following: Public Works, city's volunteer Adopt a Park program, and other interested city staff made the decision to remove this parcel from their weekly mowing schedule. Library and Biddeford City Departments acknowledging and promoting 'No Mow May.'

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.

Milkweed.jpg

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

WSSP Garden.jpg

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

BSB Garden 2.jpg

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

BSB Garden 3.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]

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 have several pollinator-friendly gardens in and around the downtown and in our community gardens. Biddeford Community Gardens planted milkweed in the Pierson's Lane Children's Garden. Local financial institution, Biddeford Savings Bank, allowed us to plant pollinator-friendly flowers in their Main Street border garden. At our newest Biddeford Community Garden at Rotary Park, we encouraged pollinators by adding many pollinator-friendly flowers and herbs to naturally growing milkweed garden. Purple coneflower, callendula, dahlias, tulsi basil, as examples. The total area planted amounts to 1 acre or less.

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

Biddeford Savings Bank, APEX Youth Connection, Biddeford Community Gardens, and Biddeford Adopt a Park program.

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.

1

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u334:v1.14.0.49966]