BIDDEFORD

BIDDEFORD, ME

Mayor Martin Grohman

Pledge Summary

Since 2021, Biddeford Community Gardens in partnership with the City of Biddeford, has committed to helping save the Monarch Butterfly by preserving existing native habitat and creating new habitat on publicly owned lands. Our pledge also includes educating the public about the importance of the Monarch and how together, we can implement positive, healthy changes in the way we do things. such as eliminating the use of pesticides/herbicides, that will greatly improve the Monarch's chances for long-term survival.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

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- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- 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.).

70

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.)

30

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.

1

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 Park

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

This year's project involves high school students, some of which are BIPOC. The garden is in a diverse low-income neighborhood.

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

Our mayor and council fully support the work that Biddeford Community Gardens does for our community. As part of that work, we committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge so that we can strive for improved practices to better care for our environment. We continue to push for reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides on city and residential property. We are also encouraged by reports of an increase in the Monarch population over last year.

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?

N/A

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

We have continued to encourage milkweed in our community gardens, and this year we saw many more monarchs coming to feed. We were disappointed that we were not able to host our 4th Spring Pollinator Festival due to stormy weather in our area in May. We have committed to holding a festival next year by being prepared for myriad weather conditions.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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

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

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?

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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.

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.

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)

What was the date of your festival?

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

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).

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

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

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.

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

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?

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

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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.

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

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.

Attended May, 2025 Saco Bay Garden Club meeting, informing them of Biddeford's commitment to the Monarch Butterfly and other vital pollinators, planting native wildflowers, and encouraging attendees to join in our commitment.

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.

3-5-25 Letter to PW & Rec Dept.pdf

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

We submitted a letter to our city's public works and recreation departments. The response was not what we had hoped for. Our public works department follows the lead of our city manager and adheres to outdated policies regarding pesticide/herbicides spraying. They continue to use pesticides for roadside weed control. Our Biddeford Community Gardens team is drafting a formal letter and public petition for early 2026 to ask that the city change its ordinances regarding use of pesticides/herbicides/and fungicides in public spaces, roadsides, and private properties.

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

See above.

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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MMP Mural.jpg

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

Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center 'Community Service' class students and the City of Biddeford City Manager's office.

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).

12

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).

In spring of 2025, students from the Community Service class of Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center collaborating with Biddeford Community Gardens, took on a research project around the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators. They brainstormed and planned how best to inform the public about the importance of milkweed to the Monarch. They incorporated what they learned into creating a colorful mural on an electrical box in one of our city parks.

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 High School's Alternative Pathways Center 'Garden Lab' planted native milkweed in its new wildflower pollinator garden.

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

3

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Biddeford community Gardens has been collaborating with the high school's Alternative Pathways Center for four years. We mentor and provide the tools and support through each project.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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APC CP sign.pdf

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

1

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

The sign is located at the wildflower garden in the new pollinator pathway created by students from the high school's Alternative Pathways Center's Garden Lab.

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:

May 26, 2025

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

Mayor's Endorsement of NWF Mayor's Monarch Pledge 2025

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MMP Order 2025.pdf

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).

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

cp 1.jpg

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

cp 2.jpg

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

cp 3.jpg

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

cp 4.jpg

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)

A pollinator pathway connecting Pierson's Lane Children's Garden (a small teaching garden providing summer programming) and Mission Hill Community Garden. Students from our high school's Alternative Pathways Center's 'Garden Lab' planned and planted a wildflower garden in a city park. The park is between two of our community gardens.

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)

3

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

Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center

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

BCG collaborates with the high school's Alternative Pathways Center, helping students with their research.

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).

38

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

York County Master Gardener Volunteers' Native Plant Sale, Biddeford Public Works, Biddeford Housing Authority

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

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(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.

.10

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

Students and teachers will continue to develop this garden and maintain it in the spring and fall. Biddeford Community Gardens will maintain during the summer months.

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.

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

York County Master Gardener Volunteers - At the annual meeting, we made an announcement that Biddeford Community Gardens was again committing to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and encouraged MGV's to continue with efforts to support the Monarch Butterfly.

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

We provided an initial presentation at the MGV annual meeting. No follow up.

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