BIDDEFORD

BIDDEFORD, ME

Mayor Liam Lafountain

Pledge Summary

Biddeford, Maine is a city of 23,000 residents on the Atlantic coast and Saco River, with several hundred acres of beautiful greenspaces and preservation lands. Since 2021, the City of Biddeford with the support of its partner, Biddeford Community Gardens, has committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge through such actions as creating and preserving land for the benefit of the Monarch Butterfly and other important pollinators. Through educational programs, public awareness campaigns, such as our in-progress petition to reduce/eliminate the use of pesticides city-wide, and public art initiatives, we remain committed to saving and increasing in the numbers of one of our most majestic and recognizable species.

Action Items Committed for 2026

Communications and Convening

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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.

Systems Change

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

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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 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

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

We wanted to continue the pledge for the 6th year in a row in order to increase community engagement around the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and other vital pollinators.

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

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.).

300

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 and Community Gardens

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

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We continue our work renewing a sad looking city park in a low-income neighborhood, engaging with kids from diverse backgrounds through a summer gardening program, and with teens from a local Alternative Pathways center. We also held our 4th Spring Pollinator Festival in May of this year.

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.)

100

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

Our city's Sustainability Commission has provided funding for our flowering crabapple trees for Canopy Park. They are also beginning to renovate another city park with native plants and trees.

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:

April 21, 2026

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

Order of the Mayor to take the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge on behalf of the City of Biddeford.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MMP 2026 Order.jpg

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.

Saco Bay Gardening Club. Spoke at their June 2026 monthly club meeting inviting all to support the Mayors' Monarch Pledge by planting more native plants, and encouraging the members to stop using pesticides.

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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).

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

Learning Works BLAST after school program serves 80+ students K-4th grade. We invite the students and their teachers to our largest community garden and offer fun, educational activities around the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators to growing food. Led by York County Master Gardener Volunteers and garden staff.

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)

This was our third year hosting kids K-4 at our Rotary Park garden. This year, we held it earlier this year so the students were able to witness insects coming out of hibernation and also help with planting early crops.

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 (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

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

Pollinators fact sheets with garden activity suggestions.

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

We have a dedicated team of garden volunteers and Master Gardeners who maintain our gardens and native plantings throughout the season.

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).

175 students and10 educators

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE

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NUMBERS only)

4

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

Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center Biddeford High School's Farm & Food Production Class Learning Works BLAST after school program held at Biddeford Primary School

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

MMP 2026 - 1.jpg

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

MMP 2026 - 2.jpg

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

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

100

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

MMP 2026 - 3.jpg

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We planted several milkweed in newly established borders in our Williams Court Community Garden and Park. We also had a bumper crop of milkweed this year in our Rotary Park Community Garden where plants from last year spread their seeds. We saw an increase in Monarch population everywhere!

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 and our Biddeford Community Gardens summer programming for young kids.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator

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conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

We partnered with several organizations and community leaders for our 4th Spring Pollinator Festival. Our Mayor kicked us off with a reading of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge order. Biddeford High School's Sustainability Club, our city's Sustainability Commission, Heart of Biddeford, York County Beekeepers, Portland Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, Biddeford Saco Climate Action Team, Forging Commons (a local arts collaborative) who led a mural painting activity.

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)

300

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).

This was our 4th year hosting the Spring Pollinator Festival at Rotary Park (our city's 2nd largest park along the Saco River). Our largest community garden is also in this park and we offered walking tours of the gardens as part of the festival activities. We had four musical acts, cultural foods prepared by some of our immigrant neighbors, and purchased extra food from immigrant owned restaurants. Each participating organization provided a family-friendly activity from Monarch puppets to face painting.

What was the date of your festival?

May 16, 2026

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.

Shed Mural.jpg

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

RP Shed 2.jpg

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

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installations, type of art).

This latest community mural is a partnership with Biddeford Community Gardens and the Learning Works BLAST after school program. It got a late start in 2026 and will be completed in Spring of 2027. The theme is fresh veggies from the garden and will incorporate images of pollinators.

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

Learning Works BLAST program

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).

20

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

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.

There is ongoing conversation toward reducing chemical pesticides and herbicides on private and city property. We continue to reach out to various organizations, including our citys' Sustainability Commission, and the Biddeford Saco Climate Action Team.

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

Biddeford Saco Climate Action Team, Biddeford High School's Alternative Pathways Center, and Biddeford's Sustainability Commission.

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