# City of Brecksville

Brecksville, OH

Mayor Jerry N. Hruby

## Pledge Summary

Nestled in the lands of the Western Reserve, Brecksville was founded in 1811. It is located at the southern border of Cuyahoga County in northeast Ohio, in the heart of rolling woodlands, approximately fifteen miles south of Cleveland. The City encompasses 19.54 square miles and the 2020 census reported that Brecksville had a population of 13,948, and it's not much more than that now. We like being small. Legislative authority is vested in a seven-member City Council elected at large. Jerry N. Hruby is Mayor and has held office since 1988. Our young people are educated in the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District which is consistently rated as one of the best school districts in the state. Perhaps the most distinguishable feature of Brecksville is that 1/3 of those 19.54 square miles are parkland including the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation and the adjacent Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In 2016, the City established a Community Garden, using property that was once a basketball court. One year later, the Chippewa Garden Club and the community garden gardeners planted a Monarch WayStation just outside the fenced garden area. Mayor Hruby is committed to extending this effort to other areas of the City including our beautiful residential yards. He has appointed the Chippewa Garden Club to be his representative in this challenge!

## 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

### Systems Change

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

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- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- 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 Jerry N. Hruby | 2021 | 4/27/2021 | |

## 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.).**

200

**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 youth and 100 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.**

0.25

**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.**

schools, community gardens, common areas

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

No applicable.

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

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Environmental sustainability.

**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?**

Have not explored available resources beyond what we already had.

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

Efforts were hindered by pandemic and not as much progress as hoped was made.

# Selected Action Items

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

85

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Common and swamp milkweed

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

Highland Drive Elementary School

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

Milkweed seed pods were collected from two pollinator gardens at our community gardens and backyards of several garden club members. Students at the school cleaned the pods and gleaned the seeds. These seeds were then planted at the Highland Island courtyard at the elementary school, grades 1-4.

## Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

**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)**

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Two pollinator gardens were maintained at two community gardens: 6925 Stadium Drive, Brecksville and Towpath Drive in Broadview Heights

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

Mayors and Service Directors of both cities, the organization (board) of each community garden (i.e., Brecksville and Greene Acres)

**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.**

0.25

## 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?**

The governing boards at both Community Gardens (Brecksville and Greene Acres)

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

50

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

The 24 plants represent additional plants to replace plants that did not winter over (like zinnias) or did not survive over the last year.

## 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?**

Service Directors of both Cities.

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

Complete

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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.**

Note: after researching, neither City's ordinances mentioned milkweed as a noxious plant.

## 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?**

No action has been taken on this action item.

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

In progress.

## 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.**

Chippewa Garden Club and Emerald Necklace Garden Club held milkweed seed distribution sessions at both the Home Days celebration and local church picnic. Also partnered with a Girl Scout troop to give guidance on how to begin a pollinator garden in their residential park.

## 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:**

Draft proclamations done, but have not yet been passed. Hopefully, proclamation will be passed in Spring, 2022

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day - Broadview Heights. Similar one will be prepared for Brecksville.

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

CGC GA 2021 Proclamation.docx

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## Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Brecksville City Horticulturist.

**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.**

Initial discussion held, but no further action taken by either City.

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