Borough of Franklin Lakes

Franklin Lakes, NJ

Mayor Frank Bivona

Pledge Summary

The Borough of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, is a residential suburban community located in northwest Bergen County. It is a close knit family community, with an outstanding school system, library and recreation programs. Mayor Bivona of Franklin Lakes, NJ is committed to saving the monarch butterfly by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and he looks forward to engaging residents into building more monarch friendly gardens throughout the town.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Frank Bivona	2022	2/24/2022	
Mayor Frank Bivona	2021	6/25/2021	Leadership Circle

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.

.16

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

To help sustain the Monarch Butterfly so future generations will be able enjoy the sight of seeing a Monarch Butterfly.

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?

Google searching for information regarding the plight of the Monarch Butterfly - Monarch Watch and also the Wildlife Website

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

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.

Currently, we created our 3 Butterfly Gardens in public parks located in Franklin Lakes. In the future, we would like to plant at local elementary schools.

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're receiving alot of assistance through the Girl Scouts of Franklin Lakes which is open to all girls in Franklin Lakes. Participation is not mandatory and no payment is necessary as all costs are being covered by the Franklin Lakes Environmental Committee (pay the costs of milkweed and nectar producing plants).

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.)

There are less than 100 girl scouts and leaders in town. So in total I'd say roughly 30 girls/ 6 adults have participated in creating our butterfly gardens - planting, digging or painting.

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

Surprised by the public reaction at the Franklin Lakes Town Fair - were surprised by the Monarch Plight and really want to help sustain the species. Next year, would like to sell or give milkweed plants and seeds away at the Fair.

Selected Action Items

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

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?

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

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:

July 20, 2021

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

Proclamation Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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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.

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

When I was creating the Monarch Butterfly Garden at the Parsons Pond Park location, I noticed that the Franklin Lakes Department of Public Works were mowing the wild native milkweed that were growing in the park. I spoke with the Franklin Lakes' Borough Administrator, Greg Hart, regarding this matter. Why were we planting 30 milkweed plants when the DPW were mowing down a hundred? It didn't make sense to me or him. Therefore, on July 22, 2021; Greg Hart met with the Franklin Lakes' Department of Public Works (DPW) Supervisor, Richard Lilenthal. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the DPW that the wild native milkweed currently growing at the Parsons Pond Park location was NOT to be mowed on a go forward basis.

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

Franklin Lakes' Department of Public Works

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

scan0080.pdf

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

Franklin Lakes' Mayor Frank Bivona and Town Council//Animal Control

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Passed Franklin Lakes Resolution 154-2 "Support for New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan" dated May 18, 2021 // then on June 23, 2021 there was a Zoom presentation "Living Safely with Wildlife in Your Neighborhood"

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

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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.

milkweed info.pdf

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

native milkweed.pdf

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

native nectar plants.pdf

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

1) Wrote an article entitled "The Monarch Butterfly and the Importance of Milkweed" that is to be downloaded to the Borough of Franklin Lakes "The Latest Buzz" section in Spring 2022. 2) Saturday, September 25, 2021 - Franklin Lakes Town Fair. Created a Monarch Milkweed Pot which by chance had a Monarch cocoon on one of the milkweed leaves. The Monarchs and Milkweed were a huge hit! We had a lot of traffic stopping by our booth and expressing interest in how to create their own Monarch Butterfly Refuge in their home gardens. I had some informational flyers at the booth that I had laminated, but I didn't make enough copies for people to take. I was inadequately prepared - I underestimated the public's interest. As a result, the flyers were posted onto the Borough's website under the "Environmental Commission - Create A Monarch Butterfly Refuge in Your Garden" - How to create a Monarch Butterfly Garden - List of Native Milkweed to NJ - List of Native Plants, Shrubs and Flowers that attract Butterflies 3) Created a Monarch Milkweed Pot that I had used as an example for the Town Fair. I wanted to let people know - even those with limited gardening space - that they can still help the survival of the Monarch by creating a Monarch Refuge Pot. This pot contained some milkweed and some pollinating flowers. This pot was then placed in front of Borough Hall as a form of advertising.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

3

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

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The signs are located at the 3 Butterfly Gardens 1) Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve - 1 Nature Preserve Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ 2) Memorial Pond Park - 480 DeKorte Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 3) Parsons Pond Park - Parsons Pond Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ All three signs are identical and were dedicated on September 13, 2021. The signs describe the Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle and the Monarch Butterfly Migration and in addition provide information regarding native plants and the importance of milkweed. All information contained on the sign was obtained from the "Monarch Watch.org" website. The signs were created by Lauren Davenport, Project Mgr for Interpretive Graphics Signs & Systems - EnviroSigns from Solutions That Work. www.InterpretiveGraphics.com www.EnviroSigns.com Lauren@interpretivegraphics.com

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

butterfly sign.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.

Franklin Lakes Environmental Committee - Chair - Carole Holden Girl Scouts of Franklin Lakes - Leader In Charge - Carol Barrett Worked in coordination with Carole Holden from the Franklin Lakes Environmental Committee who paid for the milkweed plants and Carol Barrett from the Girl Scouts of Franklin Lakes who provided the manpower to create and plant the milkweed and nectar plants in the three parks located in Franklin Lakes, NJ.

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

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

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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).

Collected and painted rocks orange and black in honor of the Monarch Butterfly. The rocks were painted by Girl Scout Troop #97777 and then used to outline the Milkweed planted in the Butterfly Garden located at Memorial Pond Park. The milkweed that was originally planted at Memorial Pond Park (06/15/21) was inadvertently pulled by 'someone' (party unknown at this time) believing they were weeds. This milkweed was replaced and replanted in August 2021. So the painted rocks not only add interest and beauty to the Butterfly Garden but also more importantly surround the milkweed plants to let individuals know these plants are important!

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

Franklin Lakes Girl Scout Troop #97777

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).

14

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)

Butterfly Garden at the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve (Created 06/10/21) located at 1 Nature Preserve Way, Franklin Lakes, NJ is over 200 sq feet - we planted 35 milkweed plants and 4 nectar plants Butterfly Garden at Memorial Pond Park (Created 06/15/2021) located at 480 DeKorte Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ is roughly 115 sq feet - we planted 15 milkweed plants and 2 nectar plants. Butterfly Garden at Parsons Pond Park (Created 06/16/21) located at Parsons Pond Road, Franklin Lakes, NJ is roughly 70 sq feet and we planted 25 milkweed plants and 1 butterfly bush.

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

Franklin Lakes Girl Scouts and the Franklin Lakes Green Team (Carole Holden)

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

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

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

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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.

0.16

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

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

75

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

0-7.jpg

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

0-4.jpg

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

0-5.jpg

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

0-6.jpg

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Girl Scouts planted 75 milkweed plants and roughly 8 nectar plants between the 3 Butterfly Gardens that were created. In addition, Girl Scout Troop #96807 created a pollinator garden on a local farm in town. They created their garden to increase the awareness of the honeybee. The farm has over 20 honeybee hives on its property. The girls learned about the honeybee from a master beekeeper from a nearby town, ie what plants.

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

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Girl Scouts of Franklin Lakes

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

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.

The Franklin Lakes Borough Administrator spoke directly to the Supervisor of the Franklin Lakes Department of Public Works as previously mentioned in Action #4. It was deemed at this time that an ordinance was not necessary.

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

Franklin Lakes Borough Administrator

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