City of Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, MI

Mayor Christopher Taylor

Pledge Summary

Ann Arbor is a city located along the picturesque Huron River in southeast Michigan. With a population of about 120,000, it is home to over 160 parks, totaling about 2,200 acres. Over half of those acres are comprised of natural areas which are managed and maintained by the Natural Area Preservation division of the Parks and Recreation Services Unit. The University of Michigan and Washtenaw County also own and maintain significant natural acreage within the city. Mayor Christopher Taylor has signed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in recognition of the importance of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators to the health of our ecosystems and our citizens. We are committed to protecting and restoring our precious pollinator habitat.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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

- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- 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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- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2026	1/13/2026	
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2025	1/17/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2024	2/2/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2023	1/12/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2022	1/25/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Christopher Taylor	2021	1/5/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

117000

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.)

58,500 adults, 58,500 youth

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.

0.08

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.

Parks, yards, rights-of-way

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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?

We are trying to reach out to marginalized communities by physically posting event calendars, newsletters, and educational information in public spaces throughout the city and surrounding area. We realize that not everyone has access to a computer, or knows where to find information about festivals, trainings, etc., so we want to bring the information directly to them.

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

We are committed to protecting and enhancing pollinator habitat, due to the fact that monarchs and other pollinator species populations are experiencing widespread declines. We understand the importance of pollinators to the health of our ecosystems, and we want to share this information with our community to inspire them to take action as well.

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?

Educational webinars have been very helpful and have proved to be a great resource to share with members of the community. In the past, grants have also been very helpful for the purchase of native seed material, and it would be nice to see more of those.

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

The Environmental Commission in the City of Ann Arbor includes a Pollinator Working Group that is dedicated to supporting pollinator habitats.

Selected Action Items

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?

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.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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.

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

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Natural Area Preservation staff continued to actively work with developers to incorporate native plants and rain gardens into the landscaping of their developments. NAP staff reviewed seed mixes for appropriateness, and worked with a developer to implement a woodland restoration plan in a natural area at the back of the development. Park Planners also incorporated native plantings into a site improvement project at the Argo Canoe Livery.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

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Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Natural Area Preservation continued our extensive ongoing invasive species removal program in natural areas within city parks, which in part focuses on expanding native prairie and wetland habitat where milkweed and other nectar plants thrive. Throughout the year, new areas of invasives were removed in order to restore areas of lower ecological quality. Ann Arbor follows an Integrated Pest Management plan, which considers a wide variety of techniques for controlling invasive species. These include mechanical methods such as pulling, mowing, and bagging stumps; burning with prescribed fire or propane torches; and biological controls, in addition to the use of herbicides. When herbicide use is deemed necessary, our goal is always to use the least toxic product, applied at the lowest effective concentration, in the most targeted manner possible, with timing that is most effective for the species we are trying to control.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

12

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

Michigan Butterfly Network

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Natural Area Preservation continued to be the Ann Arbor hub for the Michigan Butterfly Network (michiganbutterfly.org). Volunteers were trained in the identification of monarchs and other butterfly species, and they were trained in the Pollard method of surveying. Volunteers completed 30 surveys in 8 city parks and public areas, and they reported all the butterflies they saw along their survey routes to www.pollardbase.org. Attendees of the Leslie Science and Nature Center's Monarch Migration Festival also released tagged butterflies in order to enhance local butterfly populations and to contribute to the national tracking and monitoring effort. See Action Item 21.

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.

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Leslie Science and Nature Center, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office rain garden program

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

The City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation program supported the Leslie Science and Nature Center for their annual Monarch Migration Festival (See Action Item 21). NAP also partnered with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office to maintain rain gardens in city parks that are planted with native pollinator plants.

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.

Gallup butterfly garden.JPG

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)

Gallup Park (3000 Fuller Rd), one of the busiest parks in Ann Arbor. This garden has high visibility, and is likely to make a sgnificant impact upon visitors to the site.

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

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North

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.

0.1

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Approximately 2151 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.002 acres (80 square feet)

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Volunteers with the City of Ann Arbor's Adopt-A-Median program spread a seed mix that included native asters throughout the median this fall. The maintenance plan is to let the seeds work themselves down into the existing mulch over the winter. In the spring, a volunteer will water the median to help the plants get established, and then will weed and maintain the planting as needed over the summer and into the following years.

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)

300

What was the date of your festival?

9/12/2021

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

University of Michigan, Project Grow, Washtenaw County Parks, the Pollinator Partnership, Ann Arbor Backyard Bee Keepers, PlantWise Native Landscapes, Monarch Watch, Smithgroup, Michigan Native Butterfly Farm

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).

The Monarch Migration Festival was held at the Leslie Science and Nature Center in mid-September. Attendees of the festival got their own tagged monarch butterfly to release, as well as access to onsite activities, games, a butterfly tent, information from local partners, and links to virtual resources including educational videos, games, and more of what they

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can do at home. Attendees also got the option to purchase a pollinator pack, which had specific resources to help them learn about our local pollinators, and seeds to start their own pollinator garden. The Leslie Science and Nature Center is conveniently located near downtown Ann Arbor, and has several nearby bus stops, making it easily accessible to members of the community. Certain content was available in a virtual format, which allowed the festival to reach people who might not have been able to physically attend. The event was so well-publicized that it sold out.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

University of Michigan, Michigan Dark Skies, Michigan Audubon, the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club

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.

Approved 9/7/21. Link: http://a2gov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9807150&GUID=B5CC12B3-5B8D-42BE-8477-19134E773166

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

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

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of Ann Arbor's GIVE365 program facilitated the planting, transplanting, and maintaining of milkweed and other native nectar plants in 20 parks throughout the city. The gardens were enhanced with additional plants, and invasive species were removed. In several gardens, extra leaf litter and standing dead stem material was left behind to provide nesting habitat for stem-nesting pollinators. Some seed material was also collected for distribution along roadsides and outside of park areas.

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

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None

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