City of Glens Falls

Glens Falls, NY

Mayor William Collins

Pledge Summary

Glens Falls NY is a small city in Upstate NY, nestled at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. We have a wide range of "Pollinator Gardens" on private property, as well as a City Funded Pollinator Garden in our largest City Park (Crandall Park). Our city has a population of about 15,000 people and we are about a ten minute drive form the "Queen of American Lakes" Lake George NY.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor William Collins	2025	4/30/2025	

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Mayor S. William Collins	2023	3/10/2023	Signatories
Mayor William Collins	2022	2/18/2022	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.).

5000

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 4900 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.

.5

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.

Crandall Park, street side gardens

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

We recognized pollinator gardens all over the City covering the range of socioeconomic sections and our festival was advertised widely and was completely free.

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

One member of our committee, Jim O'Hara, has been the proponent and has influenced our committee to think enviromentally.

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?

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The list of proposed activities was a great jumping point for us. I would like to see more videos showing how other communities participate. It would have made it easier to convince the Mayor to join and allow other committee members to understand what we were signing on to complete.

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

Our Monarch Festival was really excellent and was educational in a very fun way. Here is the report about the festival that I gave our local Soil and Water Commission who funded the event with a $1,000 grant. In addition to being educational, this festival was fun. After learning about Monarchs from Dr. Sheilke's lecture, the children enjoyed participating in the "Monarch Flight." The flight started with Mexican music and a Mexican flag near the pollinator garden. The kids "flew" to "Texas" where they simulated the life cycle of a Monarch while getting energy from m&ms. This was repeated in "New York" and ultimately "Canada". In "Canada" the children were greeted by the playing of the national anthem and a Canadian flag. The children then became the super generation and made the long flight back to "Mexico". The Crandall Park Beautification Committee collaborated with several organizations to make this festival a success. The Butterfly Garden club came with live Monarchs and chrysalis and released a live Monarch. Crandall Public Library had a Monarch painting station. A yoga teacher volunteered and gave a short yoga routine mimicking butterflies' life cycle. Stewart's Shoppes gave us free ice cream. The GFMS soccer team and two high school volunteers helped man our stations. An article about the event was the front page of the Post Star. Many who attended the event told us how much they learned. Thank you for your support of this project! The expenditures with receipts for the event are enclosed.

Selected Action Items

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.

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?

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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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 2, 2022

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

Mayor's Monarch Proclamation - Monarch Butterfly Friendly City

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Pledge.docx

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

Dear Neighbor-Pollinator letter.pdf

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

GF Pollinator Garden Map 2022_rev.pdf

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

Yard Sign proof Pollinator.pdf

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

We delivered 50 letters to gardeners in our community who had pollinator gardens. If the gardeners wanted to be included in our map, we delivered a yard sign and placed their location on our map. The map was discussed in an article in our local paper, was on our Facebook page and was available at the Monarch Festival. The article discussed the importance of planting pollinator gardens for Monarch's survival. This raised awareness of pollinator gardens in our community and encouraged people to plant pollinator plants.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Mayor'sProc5-2-22.jpg

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

2

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

We have two signs located in our pollinator garden in Crandall Park. The first sign identifies the garden as a waystation for Monarchs. https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html The second sign was sent by the GFW and states that the garden is a pollinator garden.

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.

pollinator garden.jpg

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

what is in the garden ad.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)

We have a beautiful pollinator garden in Crandall Park which is the biggest park in our City. The garden is located in a field by a parking area so that it is visible to many. The coordinates of the park are: 43.3215° N, 73.6613° W . We have a subcommittee of the CPBC that spends time each week maintaining this garden.

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

The Crandall Park Beautification Committee installed the garden. We purchased the plants, soil, mulch and rented the roto tiller with funds secured from a grant from Warren County Soil and Water Commission. This past July we placed an advertisement in the symphony program so that residents could learn the type of plants that are in our garden.

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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.

.02

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?

The Crandall Park Beautification Committee met with the superintendent of the City Department of Public Works.

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 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.

The City has not officially changed any policy.

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

Because our group (particularly one member Patty Rogge) does a great job weeding the pollinator garden the City DPW has abided by our request to mow around the garden. Because the milkweed at the edge of the field is not as obvious, it is often mowed down. We will continue to work with the City.

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