Lorain

Lorain, OH

Mayor Jack Bradley

Pledge Summary

The City of Lorain planted its first pollinator garden last year across from City hall. We then formed public private partnerships with 12 businesses and nonprofits to add 12 more pollinator gardens throughout our City. We also provided American Rescue Funds to the Little Lighthouse Daycare program to add a pollinator garden and nature area next to their facility.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jack Bradley	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor Jack Bradley	2025	2/5/2025	Signatories
Mayor Jack Bradley	2024	4/1/2024	Signatories
Mayor Jack Bradley	2023	2/3/2023	Signatories
Mayor Jack Bradley	2022	3/3/2022	Signatories

Action Items

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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

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.)

60 youth, 240 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.

3.5

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.

city parks, schools, community buildings

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

We have placed pollinator gardens in parks throughout the city within low-income neighborhoods and more affllluent neighborhoods alike. We have reached out to members of all areas within the Lorain community to inform and educate them on the plight of the monarch and all pollinators and to encourage creation of pollinator gardens on personal property. The community has been very receptive and eager to do more.

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

Being located on the shores of Lake Erie, we are directly on the "monarch trail" and are a much needed stop on the monarch's journey across the lake from Canada. We realize the need to protect and assist our pollinators in order to save the planet from a slow destruction. Every little bit helps!

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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Information and online courses provided by the Pollinator Partnership have been invaluable resources. On a local level, we've had the unwavering support of Dave Riddell and Ohio Prairie Nursery who have assessed our sites and offered suggestions to ensure the success of each garden. We also purchase our native seeds from Ohio Prairie Nursey (Open Seed).

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

Interest in the pollinator gardens and monarch conservation has definitely increased this year! We've been contacted by the Lorain Public Library System to partner in upcoming monarch conservation and other pollinator projects. Lorain County Health has enlisted our help to start their own pollinator garden at their Lorain facility. Our gardens are getting noticed, and interest is growing!

Selected Action Items

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Willow pollinator.pdf

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

West 35th Street and Palm Springs Drive in Lorain, Ohio.

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

Little Lighthouse Learning Center (director Palma Stipe), Lorain Parks Department, Lifestyle Landscaping, Lorain Port Authority

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.

.2

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)

1

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

The conversion began in December of 2022 and began full-throttle in November 2023. A waterline is being installed and will be ready for spring planting in 2024. The design includes large boulders and rock formations which have been put in place. There is a walkway in place. The first phase of the project will be completed following planting of the milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants in the spring.

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 planting.pdf

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)

The demonstration garden is located on the northeast corner of Broadway Avenue and West Erie Avenue. It is located behind our new script Lorain sign, a photo stop for tourists and locals alike. It is at the foot of the iconic Charles Berry Bascule Bridge, one of the most defining symbols of our city. The garden sits near where the Black River meets Lake Erie. This is a resting area for monarchs after their long journey across the lake from canada during migration.

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

The City of Lorain Administration along with various department heads, council persons, our Lorain Senior Center, Lorain Arts Council, Firefish Organization, and our Butterfly Committee came together to make this project a reality.

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.

.2

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.

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

City of Lorain Parks Department, Lorain Butterfly Committee, Little Lighthouse Learning Center, Lorain Rotary, Lorain County Community Action Agency, Congregacion El Faro Mision Cristiana, the Samuel L. Felton Jr Valor Home, Lorain City Schools, Lorain Lions

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

These groups planted and maintain their own "adopted garden". The Lorain Parks Department does all mowing for all of the gardens. City of Lorain has 54 parks, many of which are simply green spaces. Parks employees spend countless hours mowing these unused spaces. By designating a portion of this green space as pollinator gardens, we are contributing to the health of our planet and the monarch butterfly by adding beneficial food plants and eliminating carbon emissions from mowers. It's a win/win!

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

pollinator garden sign.jpg

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

15

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

The sign informs that the space is a designated pollinator garden. It defines the purpose of a pollinator garden and its benefits. It also describes the process of establishing a pollinator garden including length of time to become established. We want the community to know there is a purpose behind what may appear to be "weeds".

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:

December 4, 2023

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.

Butterfly wings.docx

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

Lorain Senior Center, Lorain Arts Council, Lorain Firefish Organization, City of Lorain Parks Department

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).

24

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 installations, type of art).

This project was the brainchild of Joan Perch of Lorain Firefish Arts. The wings were designed by local artist Ryan Craycraft and were cut and assembled by JR Lee and members of the Lorain Senior Center. All materials were purchased by the City of Lorain Parks Department. The entire project was coordinated by City of Lorain Public property Manager Lori Garcia with the support of Lorain Mayor Jack Bradley. The wings will be placed on perrmanent concrete pads (already in place) at the pollinator garden on the northeast corner of Broadway & West Erie Avenues. They will provide a photo opportunity for both adults and children as we have both small and large sets of wings. There are also swing benches and stationary benches on the perimeter of the garden to provide visitors to the garden a place to rest and reflect on the beauty of the garden and its inhabitants.

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