Lorain

Lorain, OH

Mayor Jack Bradley

Pledge Summary

The City of Lorain has planted numerous pollinator gardens throughout the city and used public/private partnerships for the planting and maintaining of the gardens.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

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

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

Systems Change

- 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 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

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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.).

85

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.)

55

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.

.75

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, Little Lighthouse Learning Center, Agudath B'nai Israel Congregation, West 13th Street neighborhood, Lorain County Health & Dentistry, Lorain Sports Complex (Campana Park)

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

We've reached out to the entire Lorain community through our Lorain Parks & Rec webpage and our social media pages. We've cooperated with the Lorain Public Library system to help distribute educational materials and programs to all members of the Lorain community. We encouraged cleanup and maintenance of pollinator gardens on "Lorain Beautiful Day", an event that is open to residents of all areas and neighborhoods throughout our city.

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

As we begin cultivating more gardens, we are seeing more and more monarchs and other butterflies, birds, bees (and even bats), and this encourages us to do even more. We are loving the positive change in our environment! Our children are becoming familiar with pollinators. Monarchs are no longer a rare spotting- we are seeing them consistently!

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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?

The amount and quality of information available on the web has been invaluable. We'd love to see more free resources (including free to print) that could be made available to our community and would help encourage all community members to engage in our pollinator endeavors.

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

It's working!!!! We are seeing more Monarchs!!! We still get excited when we see them- which is amazing, but the hope is that someday the monarch sightings will be commonplace! We hope to NEVER take the monarch and other butterflies/bees/insects for granted ever again and to appreciate them for the precious resource that they are.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Willow Park signage.jpg

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

28

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

We currently have 28 educational garden signs located throughout the City of Lorain at each of our 15 gardens. The signs signify the importance of each habitat, the lifecycle of the monarch, and the importance of native plants to the monarch and other pollinator species. The signage also informs guests to the garden that the sometimes seemingly "unkempt" appearance of each garden is normal and necessary. Each is beautiful in its own way!

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.

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The Lorain Parks & rec Department winterized our pollinator gardens for the first time this year. The gardens were mowed down, leaving the stems as long as our mowers allowed in order to provide a Winter habitat for the insects that will house themselves under clippings and in the stems of plants. We will also be overseeding when the weather permits in order to assure us of more vibrant colors come spring. The yellow yarrow has taken over a few of our gardens, and while the yarrow is gorgeous, we hope to see some purples, pinks, and blues come Spring!

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

The City of Lorain Street Department installed a new pathway through the Bonaminio Pollinator garden this Fall. They also installed benches so garden visitors could relax at the site and enjoy the beauty of the flora and fauna. We installed accessible ramps from the curbways to allow access for people of all abilities. The Parks & Rec Department will work with a local GirlScout troop and volunteers to overseed the garden in the coming weeks.

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

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

Willow Park garden with play area in background.jpg

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

Willow Park path.jpg

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

Willow Park garden and play area.jpg

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

Landscape architect Kevin O'Brien designed this pollinator meadow at Willow Park in Lorain. This was a project brought to fruition through the donation efforts of many individuals and community groups. This was our first garden that was created using plants instead of growing from seed. We're excited to see how the plants fare over the Ohio winter and can't wait to see them reemerge in Spring! We are also in the process of creating 2 monarch habitat gardens within the Lorain Sports Complex (Campana Park) under the guidance of Kate Golden, Lorain's Stormwater Engineer. These two gardens will be widely viewed by the many visitors to our sports complex. We had over 8,000 visitors to our complex in 2024!

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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.

garden swing.png

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

butterfly at bonaminio.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)

The Marie Bonaminio memorial Pollinator Garden was created 3 years ago as our first butterfly habitat. In the years since, we have continued to enhance the garden to create an educational attraction for the citizens of Lorain. This garden is located directly across the street from Lorain City Hall and is adjacent to Lorain's most prominent intersection for the highest visibility in the city. The garden features a walking patch, bench seating, butterfly sculptures, an iconic "Lorain" sign, and several swing benches overlooking the gorgeous plants and beautiful Lake Erie. You can't enter our town without seeing the pollinator garden! Beyond the garden to the north, off the shore of Lake Erie is Lorain most recognized landmark- the Lorain Lighthouse. From our swing benches, visitors are able to view the sunset across the water and watch as the lighthouse lights up with a light display that changes with the holidays and seasons.

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

Mayor Jack Bradley and his wife Debora were two of the people who were instrumental in bringing the garden to life. Members of the mayor's administration along with City of Lorain Employees (United Steelworkers Local 6621) have contributed to the garden's growth and upkeep. The Lorain Parks & Recreation Department, under the direction of Public Property Director Lori Garcia has worked tirelessly to ensure that our garden is properly maintained. A volunteer committee of concerned citizens was formed (Lorain Butterfly Committee) to ensure that our gardens continue to expand.

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.

.5

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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.

garden volunteers.jpg

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

We've engaged with Lorain City Schools, local daycares, Lorain Rotary, Lorain Lions, local churches, and other local organizations who have expressed an interest in pollinators. Most recently, we began working with Lorain Girl Scout Troop 50395, a multi-level troop of girls from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. The girls are working on their Butterfly Badge and will soon be helping us overseed our Bonaminio Pollinator garden located near Lorain City Hall. We met with the girls at theis 10/21/24 troop meeting to address the topic of Monarchs, pollinatotors, and the importance of pollinator gardens. The girls are busy learning about butterflies and other pollinators and are excited to help us with the overseeding when the weather permits. We are hoping for the fist week in December as temperatures should be consistently cool enough by then.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

garden bunnies.jpg

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

garden flowers.jpg

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

We worked with Ohio Prairie Nursery and OpenSeed to learn the best eco-friendly treatment for weeds within our gardens. Our City Storm Water Engineer is actively working to ensure the safety of our stormwater runoff. The Engineers have created a Heron Rookery and cleaned up the area along the Black River through several years worth of efforts to rid the area of waste and rubbish and to decrease the release of commercial chemical waste. The efforts have paid off, and the bank of the Black River is currently home to herons and a host of other birds. The (healthy) fish and game population in and near the river has also increased exponentially.

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

We've instituted the new chemical treatments and it will be "in progress" for the life of our gardens. We haven't eliminated the use of harsher chemicals in other green spaces and parks in the city, but that is something we are working toward.

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.

n/a

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

This is a newly instituted action. We hope to increase the actions and impact each year. Lorain has 56 city parks and countless greenspaces. A target date is uncertain, however we are aiming to decrease the use of harmful chemicals and insecticides utilized by our departments each year and to increase the use of green products and practices as we work to create a healthy ecosystem within our city.

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