Town of Gray

Gray, ME

Town Manager Nathaniel Rudy

Pledge Summary

The Town of Gray is a rural community of about 8,000 people, at the heart of southern-central Maine. Our Community and Economic Development Committee is committed to beautification projects throughout town, including our new micropark in the downtown that encourages visitors to engage with the garden and trees. The Monarch Pledge fits well with our committee's mission to improve and beautify the town, with many of the strategies overlapping with efforts already underway.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

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

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.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- 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
Town Manager Nathaniel Rudy	2022	3/21/2022	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.).

20

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.)

6 youth; 14 adults

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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.

.05

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.

pocket park with community gardens and plantings along village area loop trail

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

all are welcome to participate in planting events and use the park/trails

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

Fits well with our efforts to preserve beauty and natural habitat throughout town and keep our beautiful butterflies.

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?

pre-made posters to share in public spaces and sample ordinances for town government consideration

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

We are a small town with passionate volunteers who are keeping the momentum going to preserve open space and the rural character of town.

Selected Action Items

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?

N/A

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.

402.10.12 section of zoning ordinance requiring lights to be downward facing and not reaching abutting properties. page 135:
https://www.graymaine.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif631/f/uploads/chapter_402_zoning_ordinance_update.061522.pdf

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

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

school district

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).

15

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).

Mural design contest- nature design. Will be displayed late fall 2022 near the pocket park to increase awareness of the space and the beauty of pollinators

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)

Pocket park in village area, corner of Route 115 and Route 100, as well as plantings along walking trail behind town hall

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

Community and economic development committee and volunteers; buildings and grounds staff

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.

.05

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

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

This was a seed bank distribution; they were given away to participants at our permaculture event. About 10 packets.

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

10

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

school district, town

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Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Village Green Post Panel Sign.pdf

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).

the pocket park includes a welcome sign and a kiosk with information about the plantings and how they affect bees and other pollinators.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

N/A

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

Not yet started

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