City of Gahanna

Gahanna, OH

Mayor Laurie Jadwin

Pledge Summary

The City of Gahanna is a suburb on the east side of Columbus, Ohio, and it is home to a population of 33,248. People come to Gahanna to live because of the city's proximity to John Glenn International Airport, the 750 acres of parkland, over 17 miles of trails, and a sense of community that brings people together. Gahanna's parks alone contain many special features such as community gardens, a State Nature Preserve, and a certified arboretum. Mayor Jadwin and other community leaders have supported efforts to save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The City of Gahanna has placed importance on helping Ohio's pollinating insects by planting new prairies, educating residents about the natural world, planting pollinator-friendly landscape beds, and partnering with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Community Backyards Program and Green Columbus. The City of Gahanna is currently developing a Sustainability Plan that will help support sustainable initiatives such as land conservation and improved stewardship of Gahanna's wildlife habitats.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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

- 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).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Laurie Jadwin	2026	3/10/2026	
Mayor Laurie Jadwin	2025	1/16/2025	Signatories
Mayor Laurie Jadwin	2024	2/23/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Laurie Jadwin	2023	2/9/2023	Signatories
Mayor Laurie Jadwin	2022	3/25/2022	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.).

100

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.)

85 youths 15 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.

6.86

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.

rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, parks, public spaces

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

Many of our educational programing is geared towards our lower income neighborhood elementary schools and to our local seniors.

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

The city of Gahanna has a goal to be a more sustainable, green community. Creating more monarch habitats helps us achieve that goal.

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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We utilized our arboretum for educational programing. We partnered with Green Columbus to give away free tree saplings to the community. We partnered with NWF to help provide native pollinator habitat signage around our prairies and other habitats. Other resources that may be helpful would be to expand our trails and provide paved trails. We also aim to add observation areas to some trails to allow visitors to enjoy our parks and wildlife in a low impact manner.

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

We are working with residents to allow wildflower meadows in residential yards in accordance with our city code. We aim to use pollinator friendly or native plants in our planters and park landscape beds. We are still working to remove milkweed from the city code's list of noxious plants. We are in the preliminary stages of setting up a burn program to better manage our prairies.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

Native pollinator habitat signs

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?

0

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

We are still working to remove milkweed from the city code's noxious plant list.

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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.

Gahanna Streets and Water service Gahanna Parks and Recreation Mifflin Fire Department

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

Parks worked with streets and service to revise mowing plans in select roadsides and rights-of-way to accommodate new prairies and pollinator habitats. Mifflin fire is helping develop a prairie burn plan which will make managing prairies much more efficient.

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