City of Gahanna

Gahanna, OH

Mayor Laurie Jadwin

Pledge Summary

The City of Gahanna is a suburb of Columbus, Ohio with a population of 35,000 residents. Although we are in an urban setting, we manage over 750 acres of parkland and natural areas. We aim to improve pollinator and monarch habitat by installing pollinator gardens, planting milkweed, and adding more prairies throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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.

8.06

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?

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.

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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

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.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

701 PIZZURRO PARK DR WOODMARK RUN -82.898 40.039 Degrees ARCARO DR -82.855 40.046 Degrees WICKHAM WY REAR -82.863 40.030 Degrees

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1000

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1.16

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Most areas will be mowed yearly. Some will be added to our prairie burn program and will burned in a three year cycle. Some may be reseeded as needed.

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?

Make Gahanna Yours and Green Columbus

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

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We encourage residents using our community gardens to plant non-invasive plants and to use pesticides and fertilizers legally and responsibly.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

15

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

We remove invasive trees from parks and streets when able. We also mow down and treat honeysuckle and other invasive species such as poison hemlock from prairie land and other parkland. The methods used to eradicate invasive species range from mechanically removal to using chemicals to kill the plant.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

DRAFT Land Utilization Management Plan.docx

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

Gahanna Service department

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

Complete. Chapter 5 lists currently managed prairies (most of which used to be mowed areas).

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.

2/23/2023

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