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 2024

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.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- 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

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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

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.).

750

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.)

600

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.

2

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-ways, roadsides, parks, drainage basins, public spaces

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

Our educational programs are geared towards our lower income schools and local senior citizens.

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

the City of Gahanna as a whole has a goal of becoming a more sustainable, pollinator friendly, and greener community.

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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?

We used our arboretum for educational nature programming. We continued to add native pollinator habitat signs at our new prairies and pollinator gardens. We use a lot of the Monarch pledge tip sheets to hand out to residents if they ask for guidance when creating their own pollinator gardens. Some resources that would be helpful would be to expand our current trails and pave existing trails to make them more accessible. We are also aiming to add more observation areas to existing trails.

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

We continue to use native and pollinator friendly plants in our planters and park landscape beds. We aim to reduce pesticide use by using various pest management methods. We continue to work towards implementing a prescribed fire program to better manage our prairies.

Selected Action Items

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Girl Scout Troop, Make Gahanna Yours

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 continue to use native when we can in plantings around the city and we just planted a butterfly garden with a local girl scout troop in one of our parks.

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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Gahanna Parks and Recreation Gahanna Streets and Water Service Gahanna City Council

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. Parks also worked with city council to remove milkweed from the noxious plants list.

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)

Woodside Green Front: -82.884, 40.045 Woodside Green Rain Garden: -82.882, 40.044 Trapp: -82.869, 40.037 Sycamore Woods: -82.868, 40.034 Library: -82.871, 40.018

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.

1.2

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

We aim to mow each prairie on an annual basis and remove invasives each winter. Some prairies will be added to our future prescribed fire program and would be burned in a 3-year cycle. Prairies may be reseeded as needed.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Make Gahanna Yours, Green Columbus, Columbus Academy, Gahanna Jefferson Schools

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

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Make Gahanna Yours litter pick up days and flower planting days, Green Columbus tree give away for Arbor Day. Columbus Academy Volunteer Day and Gahanna Schools: teachers and students spent a day with us clearing invasive species and trail building.

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.

18

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 continue to cut down/mow down invasives such as honey suckle and poison hemlock in our natural areas. We also use herbicide treatments when applicable and treat stumps. We remove invasive trees from parks and city streets when able. We also used goats to eat honeysuckle and other understory plants to clear a hillside.

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

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

Gahanna Parks, Mayor, and City Council

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 make efforts to reduce our pesticide use in house and when working with contracted landscaping companies we ask that they use manual means of weed removal when they can. We also used goats to clear invasives on a hillside.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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Gahanna City Council

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.

Milkweed was removed from the noxious weed list in the city code.

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?

Gahanna City Council

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