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 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

- 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

- 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.

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

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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.).

150

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.)

80

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.

0.25

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.

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

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current trails and pave existing trails to make them more accessible. We are also aiming to add more observation areas to existing trails. I think some examples of programming we can put on would be helpful to continue to reach new people.

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

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?

Kiwanis, VFW, Make Gahanna Yours, Columbus Academy, Gahanna-Jefferson Schools

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

3000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We worked with volunteers from our local school's Kiwanis club to install 2 new wildflower and native plant areas in 2 of our parks. We also worked with volunteers from 2 local organizations to plant native perennials and annuals in landscape beds and planters. Lastly, we had a group of volunteers from a local school come and remove invasive species in several of our parks.

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.

5

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.

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We have tried to be more aggressive when treating for invasives. Before mowing prairies, we walk each site and manually remove any woody invasives and apply a cut stump treatment to the stump. We are also developing a new plan for treatment and removal of tree of heaven by treating the tree with an herbicide before removal of the tree in an attempt to prevent suckers from emerging from the cut stump.

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

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

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

We have begun the process of working with our economic development department to try to incentivize local businesses that do not prioritize beautification of their greenspaces. It was noted that some businesses do not utilize their greenspaces, not only does that reduce the green aesthetics of the area, but those spaces could also be habitat for pollinators. By creating an incentive to beautify those spaces, we hope to add more habitat for pollinators.

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?

Gahanna City Planning and Gahanna Parks Project Manager

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 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.

12/31/2026

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

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We are able to see all landscape plans and request changes to any plans or plant species planned. There are currently 4 major projects in progress with different end dates, but I expect all projects will be complete by end of year 2026. Academy Park Renovation Creekside Floodway Mitigation New City Hall Price Road Recreation Center Renovation

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