City of Lawrence KS

Lawrence, KS

Mayor Courtney Shipley

Pledge Summary

With a deep appreciation for diversity, education, arts, parks, recreation, and community, Lawrence prides itself on being independent of its counterparts in the region. Lawrence, with a population of more than 100,000, is home to Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of Kansas. Lawrence boasts many amenities of larger cities while maintaining the Midwestern small-town charm that its residents value. Lawrence was founded on the banks of the Kansas River in 1854. Located between the Kansas City metropolitan area and the State's capital of Topeka, Lawrence is the county seat of Douglas County. In some of the community parks, we have plants for pollinators through the use of butterfly gardens. We also host programs to educate the public about what they can do to assist the continued support of pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

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.

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- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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).
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- 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 Lisa Larsen	2023	3/24/2023	
Mayor Courtney Shipley	2022	3/28/2022	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.)

75 youth and 25 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.

10

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.

We are just getting started in tabulations but know we have schools and community gardens and parks with habitat being created in support of butterflies. a project began in 2021 that continued in 2022 to create a pollinator habitat at a community dog park. Monarch Watch the national program is run through the University of Kansas that is home in Lawrence, as well as the Baker University Wetland Discovery Center, which also conduct programs and initiatives in support of creating habitat.

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

With the City's new strategic plan a focus is placed on equity for all. As we continue to work to bring partners in the community to the table and help report out better what is being done. This data will continue to yield positive results. In one of the major city parks, (South Park) there is a butterfly garden with signage to help educate everyone who comes to the park. The garden is near a playground too, so it attracts people of all ages.

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

The motivation is to celebrate community, focus on sustainability and also to pull groups together who work on this, so there aren't duplication of services and how we can work together to produce positive results.

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?

As mentioned, we are just getting started and so the resources will be more helpful next year and into the future.

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

As we see our community recover from the pandemic, the community is focused on many things including sustainability. The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, who is heading up this initiative sees opportunities to enhance the relationships with Monarch Watch, the Baker University Wetlands and Discovery Center and groups like

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Outside for a Better Inside to further develop sustainable plantings to support the habitat of Monarchs. In 2022, we have been also working on assisting pollinators too.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this

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process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

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)

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

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

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)

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

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.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

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What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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?

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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.

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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.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

What was the date of your festival?

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

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

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?

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

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.

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

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

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

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

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below.

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

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.

Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with The University of Kansas, Kansas Biological Survey, Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council and Monarch Watch, created a pollinator habitat with native grasses and wildflowers at Mutt Run Dog Park. Mutt Run, located at 1330 E. 902 Road, was opened in 2001 as an off-leash area for dog owners and their pets to exercise. Fields, mowed paths, and wooded areas make up the 30-acre park, which used to be a hay pasture. As a result, the vegetation is dominated by brome grass, an invasive and non-native species. The Grassland and Pollinator Habitat Improvement project began August 2021 and lasted through spring 2022. The goal of this project was to eradicate the brome grass and other invasive species such as sericea lespedeza and replace them with native species of grasses and wildflowers. These native plants provide a habitat for many types of insects and other pollinators that are crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. The plan used herbicides on the south third of the site in August 2021 and then a controlled burn in mid-September 2001. A disk harrow was used on the east half of the site in October/November 2021 to control regrowth and further expose the soil for seeding, which took place in December 2021. The seed mix consisted of about 18 different species of flowering forbs and three species of native Kansas grasses. In April 2022, volunteers helped plant pre-started plugs in an effort to jumpstart the growth. In May 2022, the area was mowed again and reassessed. Should everything go as planned, a diverse and abundant vegetative community should reveal itself in three to four years. Signage was placed in the park 48 hours before application of the herbicide. Test sites will be used to compare effectiveness of different herbicides before spraying the affected areas. This project is another in a series of improvements over the last year to Mutt Run Dog Park, which has included the resurfacing of various trails for ease of accessibility.

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

The project was shared by Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, the University of Kansas, Kansas Biological Survey, Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council and Monarch Watch, bt the project is the product of the Kansas Biological Survey, which helped coordinate the efforts and enlisted volunteers for the project. The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation staff will continue to provide maintenance and oversight of the area.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

sign.jpg

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).

This is a sign we have posted in our main butterfly garden in the high-traffic park at the edge of Downtown, which is a signature park of Lawrence dating back to 1854. The signage shows the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and provides information on its habitat and what it eats for food.

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?

Concerned residents/Parks and Recreation Department

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

We have created an Integrated Pest Management program in 2005 and have continued to evolve it over the years.

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.

2008

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

Information on the Integrated Pest Management Policy and links to each chapter of the manual can be found at https://lawrenceks.org/lprd/parks/ipm/ for the full plan.

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