Evans City

Evans City, PA

Council President of Evans City PA Cheri Deenerkohan

Pledge Summary

Evans City is settled in a valley surrounded by large hills and beautiful landscape. This quaint Pennsylvania town is conveniently located just north of Pittsburgh and just south of two state parks, Moraine and McConnell's Mill and an environmental education center, the Jennings Commission. These are all in Butler County, PA. Our population with the 2020 census is at 1,850 people with equal groupings of young couples starting out, families with children looking for quiet environment for them live and learn and an older population that were born, raised, and plan to live out their lives here. We have a family dairy, Marburger Dairy, that is a national champion in the buttermilk and chocolate milk taste competition and their milk products are shipped across the United States. We are also known for our sweet corn that another local farmer started many years ago to feed his family of 13 and now stills feeds the 3rd generation of this family which has increased exponentially. They start in March with preparing their fields for planting and have sweet corn ready for the 4th of July holiday picnics, as well as corn to sell at community grocers in Butler County. Evans City has many programs and services available for its citizens like, EDCO a community park and pool, 4-H group, active library programming, girl/boy scout troops, a senior citizens complex, student baseball fields from T-ball to high school age, and a Master Gardener with in our boundaries. All these opportunities would make this commitment to the monarch butterflies and their habitat a value to our community. Butler County has many agricultural aspects and is a learning center for all ages. We try to educate our folks by highlighting and encouraging a better understanding of the plight of our wildlife with the barn owl and osprey habitats at Moraine State Park, and our involvement over the years by hosting Earth Day activities at EDCO Park and down by the Breakneck Creek. Some Earth Day activities and booths are Rural Water Conservation, honey bee habitats, seedlings trees to be planted, warning about the use of pesticides and herbicides, re-entry of the barn owl native to our area, and organic gardening. Now we can add to Earth Day the importance of helping monarch butterflies. Some additional activities and events that we are thinking about this year are to get the word out of how important conservation of our land, air, water, and all wildlife is and highlighting and lifting the interest of all, on increasing the population and maintaining viability of the monarch butterflies. When it comes to interest and effort in committing to the monarch population and pollinator conservation, we are currently reviewing an HOA development that will have some expansion within our Borough lines. We are at the point of our review to negotiate with the developers to also help with the Monarch and pollinator plight by adding a garden or fence row around the development to assist. It is our aspiration that Evans City would be looking to plant more sustainable plants for the butterflies within our park, as well as, help to maintain a pollinator garden at our library that also houses our municipal government. We also were recently granted access to a parcel of land within our Borough that we are planning to start another butterfly/pollinator garden. Our approach is to take this venue to new heights over several years. Each year building on the one prior allowing for us to compliment, supplement and hopefully unite the community to join us as we develop the area for the butterflies, pollinators, and our public to enjoy and learn from. The Borough will be participating again in the Science

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Day at our elementary school to start the discussion and initiate families and kids to participate in this effort of aiding, assisting, supporting and conserving our area and homes to help sustain the monarch population. Our vision for our small town of Evans City in rural Pennsylvania is one of hope....hope for the health, welfare, and sustainability for our monarchs now and for the future.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.
- 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 art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Council President of Evans City, PA Cheri Deener-Kohan	2024	2/24/2024	
Council President of Evans City PA Cheri Deenerkohan	2023	3/29/2023	Signatories
Council President of Evans City PA Cheri Deener-Kohan	2022	3/29/2022	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

80

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.)

7 adults; 73 students

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.

.16

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.

Main Street Memorial Park

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

By using school programs

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

Felt it was a good cause and people truly enjoy butterflies.

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?

Not sure at this time. Still learning this whole process and the resources I used were excellent.

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

We were able to reach more students. We were able to grow ourselves and added two more actions to work towards

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Selected Action Items

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Once again this project had to tabled this year. We were ready to start on this project when we were informed by the Borough that a major construction project was happening in the area we chose for the art work. Once the building is completed we will reevaluate this goal.

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?

Evans City is partnering with county leaders, surrounding community officials and a collectively approved engineering firm. Our organization is made up of the 6 bordering communities. All communities have the same issues, just varying degrees. The groups focus is the effects of storm water as it pertains to each community individually and collectively in regards to natures habitat and community sustainability.

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 currently working on a climate resiliency project, of storm water, in our borough. This partnership has formed a coalition on the effects of storm water within each community as well as collectively to the Southwestern portion of our county. Storm water risks have increased over the past 25-30 years(3-4 massive floods) and will continue if we do nothing. The destruction caused by the floods have destroyed homes/yards/trees, and has caused land erosion, all of which has made a vast difference in how we fit into the climate change of America and our honored guests of nature that makes the world a better place in which to live. Our storm water reduction plan goal is to improve our odds in maintaining a better equilibrium with our native nature inhabitants. We are in phase 1 of a multi year project. Currently we are working on our worst street where the land is starting to shift and slide. The erosion on this street has encroached several homes and a vast wooded hillside. One of our solutions is to try and stop this deterioration, which in turn will give our area a chance to bring back the natural habitat. Once this phase is complete we will introduce more native water and shade loving plants to assist the butterfly and pollinator populations. This project will also filter different sized grit as it comes off the

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hill/street and drains towards the Breakneck creek. This process will help with build up of silt, clogging waterways and in turn will help with more clean water, fish and waterfowl populations, help with water back up within the creek due to the various catch basins in the new system. Completion date for phase 1 is 2024.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

image.jpg

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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)

Center of town, Main Street Evans City, PA. This site is a focalpoint and meeting place of our residents. It is the site of our US Flagpole, war memorials, commemorative bench's and in the Winter our Christmas tree. Since this is such a congregational place and the surrounding area was left vacant it was decided that this would be an opportune place to bring solstice, beauty and educational place within our community..

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

The Borough of Evans City Council; Nextier Bank; Seneca Valley School District, Community GrOWN Group from

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.

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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.

Master gardeners: Joyce Yasko and Nancy Bergman Sayer, Butler Vo-Tech, Ryan Gloyer Middle School students; in their Community GrOWN program.

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

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This will be a multi year Project. This being year one, I met with the Master Gardeners to brainstorm ideas of what and where to place gardens. Our first one will be on Evans City Main Street see action #9. The Ryan Gloyer Middle School will be helping with spring clean up, spreading compost, planting, mulching, and weeding where needed. This will be ongoing thru the years till the group no longer exists in the school district. Future plans are to prepare more gardens at the various entrances of town. I have spoken with the local Vo-Tech school, graphic arts department to assist in designing/making us new entry signs. I am not sure of the time line for this part of the project but in collaboration with the Master gardeners they felt this would be an outstanding venue for similar gardens. Each garden will be registered and designated as a pollinator/native plant/Monarch Butterfly garden(s).

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?

EDCO Park Authority

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

20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

One of the Authority members took the lead in this action. She loves to garden and brought the gardens around the pool and park to be more butterfly/pollinator friendly. She also did work with making the garden areas more manageable and controlled. Her efforts of inclusion of pool/park staff to participate was also a great improvement, esteem booster and educational experience for our teens.

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:

May 1, 2023

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge Summer

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

monarch pledge 2023.jpg

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