Evans City

Evans City, PA

Council President of Evans City, PA Cheri Deener-Kohan

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 2024

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 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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	

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

1000

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.)

300

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.

.5

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.

resident yards; community park; center of town/veteran memorial, along town creek

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

Articles on the plight of the Monarch Butterflies and our actions as a community are being followed by local news paper.

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

Interest in saving our planet

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?

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I found all resources to be helpful. Many times I did not initially grasp what the resources was trying to say or have us try however, when I revisit the materials I have a light bulb go off and a spark is giving and I am able to understand and then put the resources to good use. Most of our the work that is accomplished in our action items are coordinated with our younger residents in mind. More ideas to engage parents and children would be nice. I would like to see a children's science lab on our website for parents and children to do together. Any resources that could be copied and pasted to the borough website would be wonderful ffor our community.

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

we are a small community and many of the action items take us longer to accomplish than one year. Possible allowing for some action items to put in the phases needed to complete and report on the phases completed yearly.

Selected Action Items

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

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

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

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).

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.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

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 are working with our County Vo-Tech Graphic Arts Department to design and make us new signs when coming into town. In conjunction with that I have been working with two local Master Gardeners to help plan and design monarch habitats to plant at the base of the signs once they are erected.

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?

School district, Science teachers, Master gardeners, Elementary Teachers, Park Authority, and Borough 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.

A new school is coming to our town. The public has not been notified as to exactly what type/age groups will be housed in the complex. This action is definitely a long range plan to get the community school involved and to utilize student ideas of sustainability, climate resiliency and other conservational concerns that the student are learning about. Our hopes are to give the opportunity for the new school enhance conservation ideas with on hand learning experiences within our community. Although it was thought at the time of choosing this action item that it was something that would take a lot of discussion and planning. There has been a delay in the building process and a confirmed date has not bee establish as well as the student population to be housed there.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

We had 2 master gardeners, the county extension office, borough council, and a native plant specialist involved in the start of this process. We also included the graphic arts department of our local Vocational School to give our town a new look upon entering with the gardens. The participation of all these groups should make the signs and gardens accent each other.

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

We worked diligently on the butterfly garden we planted last year. The winter of 2023 and the summer of 2024 was almost totally catastrophic for it. We came together to discuss and choose some different plants as replacements for what we lost. We also participated together in the initial planning of 3 more gardens. These gardens will be planted as each of our "Welcome to Evans City" signs are replaced (2025-2026 & possibly 2027). The beds will be surrounded with regional stone borders/sides. The signs were designed by local students from the graphic arts department at our County Vocational School. Although we have plans as to what to put into each garden it will not be confirmed until the signs are up and we will have a better idea of the exact size of each garden. The sign are currently being made and will be available in the spring of 2025. 2026, and possibly 2027. Once completed and standing we will meet and determine the proportionate size of the garden to the sign.

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)

Our demonstration garden is located in the Evans City, PA on the Main Street, center of town, veteran memorials. It's placed there so that the community can observe the Monarchs fly, rest, eat and hopefully lay eggs that will hatch. Our hope is to see the population of butterflies grow. Its location is also beneficial for children, parents, teachers, etc. to sit around very close to the garden and learn at their own pace and interact with the people they are close to. I am also hoping that it will be regarded as a sanctuary area for people to greet friends or to take time out and reflect.

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

Master gardeners; Borough Council members; Community grOWN students from local Junior High School for community service project in town.

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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.

.16

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?

Community grOWN students from the junior high school, Borough Council members, Master Gardener

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

15

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We have 2 gardens at this time. We helped to maintain the smaller of the two gardens by tidying up the bed, trimming and starting new plants from the cuttings we had from the spring clean up. We took the cuttings and started a growing process for them. Once they were big enough to thrive on there own they were taken to the community garden in the center of town to plant. Initially they appeared to be acclimating to the new bed. Things were going well and then the extraordinary heat and lack of rain, even though we watered each day the heat/sun was to much for the plants this summer. We put together a group from Action 5 to help pull our ideas together to better combat that same scenario from happening again. We are looking into rain barrels vs. city water. Possible soaker hoses to keep roots more saturated for the drought time, etc. Within the next few years the town has hopes to be able to have either a seed or plant exchange at our community festivals and gatherings to get others involved in the plight and to enhance the own propeerties.

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:

6 May 2024

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

Help the Monarch Summer

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterffly proclamation 2024 (scan).jpeg

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.

The following groups; EDCO Park Authority, Public Works, local landscape/horticulturist professional and the Borough Council, were brought together to revise an/or maintain appropriate mowing programs for the park.

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

One of the first things that the pool/park decided was to revamp the gardens on the hillside entrance into the pool. They have started some different plants and their hope is to be able to do a seed collection of the milkweed and other plants the put in to help with a future goal of a seed exchange. The park has also implemented planting milkweed around the fence line of the park so no matter where children are playing the could come across a Monarch Butterfly or other insects enjoying the nectars and pollinating the areas. The public works department in coordination with the local landscaper/horticulturist. There are places within the park that are very wet and this area possibly be a planting area to help dry that area up. I am not sure what they propose to plant at this time. Mowing direction and grass height were being looked at. Data was taken to see what areas were used the most/least and what can be done to bring more educational activities to the park. It was felt that these ideas would have to be looked at annually to see where the public interest lied and then approach the finds the next season if not able to initiate in the current one.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

The proposed habitats will be on Elizabeth Avenue and the other along our town creek on North Washington Street

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

Borough Council, Butler County Housing Authority, Zoning Officer, for starters. The second property we have met with the local VFW post and a contracting business to utilize the outside perimeters of their properties down to the town creek. Thirdly we will be in discussion with the Master Gardener's, DEP, Local junior high students from community grOWN group that helps with community service activities in the Spring.

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What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

.5

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

2

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

These lots have not been converted to date. We have held many meeting with the Housing Authority so to reclaim said property on Elizabeth Avenue. The property has had no residents since the owner past over 10 years ago. The bank currently owns the property and wants to recoup the funds given in loans to the deceased. The second area that we have been looking at is on the banks of our town creek. The creek come through the west side of town and borders properties owned by the local VFW post and a contractor. Discussions have been positive and planting on these perimeters are being developed over the winter season to be ready for spring when we get the local junior high's Community grOWN group to help with spring community service projects.

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