Borough of Franklin Park

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Mayor Dennis O'Keefe

Pledge Summary

Franklin Park Borough is quiet, safe, residential suburb of 15,500 people located approximately 20 miles north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Borough has four active parks and has recently acquired an additional 40 acres of green space to incorporate into the park system. Mayor O'Keefe is committed to monarch and pollinator conservation, and the Borough has begun the process of restoring unused lawn areas on Borough property with native trees, shrubs and pollinator plants, including milkweed.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.

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
Mayor Dennis O'Keefe	2025	3/24/2025	Signatories
Mayor Dennis O'Keefe	2024	2/20/2024	Signatories
Mayor Dennis O'Keefe	2023	3/31/2023	Signatories
Mayor Dennis O'Keefe	2022	3/29/2022	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

23

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.)

15 adults and 8 youths

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.

Linbrook Park, Old Orchard Park and Franklin Park Municipal Building

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

N/A

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

We are aware of the dramatic decline of monarch butterflies and this program was a perfect springboard for the Borough to assist in monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation. The Borough is continuing to work on returning large areas of our parks to a natural state and part of our landscaping and property maintenance.

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 were able to raise the public's awareness of the decline of the Monarch Butterfly through the announcement of the Borough taking the Monard Pledge. The Borough will be able to reach more residents and into neighboring communities by utilizing additional social media channels. Grant funding would help in the expansion of returning areas of our parks

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to their natural state and using the education resources provided by the NWF to engage our residents and neighboring communities.

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

Over the past year the Borough has provided three areas where groups have planted or are in the planning process of pollinator gardens to help in the process of the conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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)

The active pollinator garden is located at the site of our community garden in Linbrook Park, 2634 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143. One of the gardens created by local Girl Scouts troops is located in Old Orchard Park at 2219 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 and will be planted in the spring. The other garden is located at the Franklin Park Municipal Building at 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 and the girls planted the seeds in early November.

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

Leaders and scouts from two local Girl Scout Troops, Community Garden participants and a Naturalist from the Allegheny County Parks' Latodami Nature Center in North Park.

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.

.5

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.

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Sewickley Valley Garden Club, Community Garden participants, two local Girl Scout Troops and a Naturalist from the Allegheny County Parks' Latodami Nature Center.

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

The Sewickley Valley Garden Club received a grant for a pollinator garden in Linbrook Park. The Borough will be performing the overwintering process of the area. A pollinator garden was started as part of our Community Garden and was active in 2023. The Girl Scout troops reached out to the Borough for assistance in providing the space, planning and layout of a pollinator garden in Old Orchard Park and at the Franklin Park Municipal Building. The Borough prepared the areas and will contribute trees and bushes to the gardens and the girl scouts will be providing the seeds/plants as well as doing the planting. The Naturalist was consulted on the garden at the Municipal Building.

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?

N/A

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.

N/A

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

The Borough applied for a DCNR grant to assist with the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan but was turned down. We will be working internally throughout 2024 to survey our residents regarding recreation needs and conversion of grass to green stormwater infrastructure, woodlands, and pollinator gardens/meadows. We anticipate utilizing the grant funding for the development of site plans for our parks that incorporates the input received from our residents and environmental stewards, including the Allegheny Land Trust, The Audubon Society of Western PA, the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, and the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. We look to have the plan completed in the fall of 2025.

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