Borough of Franklin Park

Borough of Franklin Park, PA

Mayor Dennis O'Keefe

Pledge Summary

The Borough of Franklin Park is a quiet, safe, residential municipality located in Allegheny County, PA. It is approximately twenty (20) miles north of the City of Pittsburgh, encompasses 13.5 square miles, and has a population of 15,500. The Borough has four parks, 280 total acres of protected green space and continues to work on providing natural habitats, gardens, and meadow areas with the commitment to monarch and pollinator conservation. Mayor O'Keefe, Borough Council, and the Borough's EAC are committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing natural areas.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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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.).

25

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

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.

1

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 have created habitats at our Municipal Building, in borough parks, and at our community garden.

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

We ensure that low-income communities and communities of color have accessibility to engage in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

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

The importance of continuing to maintain, build and promote natural habitats is to restore, conserve and protect our green space and wildlife.

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?

The signage resources were informative as far as information and layout, however offering ideas on size, construction, the best material to place the signage information on etc. would be helpful.

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

We have increased our garden space and are engaging in community involvement.

Selected Action Items

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.

Franklin Park Parks Department, Franklin Park Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), garden clubs, residents from our community garden and Girl Scout troops.

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

The Parks Department has implemented a mowing program in our parks to preserve natural habitat, the EAC provided guidance, a local garden club planted a garden in one of our parks, participants from our community garden helped to maintain a pollinator garden, and 2 Girl Scout troops planted pollinator gardens.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

1 - Community HOA

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

We are in the process of engaging local HOAs now with one HOA showing a strong interest in creating a natural habitat in their community.

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?

Girl Scouts

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We prepared the area for planting, planted the large plants/bushes, and are responsible for its continued maintenance.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2

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

The signs will be at the garden at Old Orchard Park and the other located at the Municipal Building. The signs will contain information on the plants in the gardens with a QR Code to use for additional Information on each one.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Franklin Park's EAC, Land Use Committee

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.

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The EAC and Land Use Committee have made initial recommendations that are new being vetted with our residents. We hope to complete this by June of 2025.

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