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 2025

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.).

0

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.)

0

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.

0

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.

N/A

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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Selected Action Items

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.

In the past we have partnered with garden clubs, Girl Scout troops, and a Naturalist from Allegheny County.

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

The garden club received a grant for a pollinator garden in Linbrook Park. Two Girl Scout Troops planted gardens, one in Old Orchard Park and one at the Municipal Building. The Naturalist consulted the garden at the Municipal Building.

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)

Franklin Park Borough maintains three pollinator gardens that are located at our community garden in Linbrook Park, 2634 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143; in Old Orchard Park at 2219 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 and at the Franklin Park Municipal Building at 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

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

Community Garden participants, leaders and scouts from two local Girl Scout Troops

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

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

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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 received a grant from the DCNR to assist with the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. We will be working internally 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. The plan will be completed in 2026.

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