City of Elizabeth

Elizabeth, NJ

Mayor Chris Bollwage

Pledge Summary

Elizabeth is a city in northeastern New Jersey with a population of roughly 137,000. The city is located along the New Jersey-New York border, northwest of Staten Island. Home to approximately 46 parks and playgrounds, including the Elizabeth River Trail, Elizabeth Waterfront (Maricante Jackson-Millet Park) and MicroFarm and Environmental Center. Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth, New Jersey, with 3 community partners including Groundwork Elizabeth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge Association among others have officially committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to continuing and expanding upon the current efforts within the city to create pollinator habitat and educate residents on the importance of pollinators for maintaining healthy ecosystems.

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.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u471:v1.14.0.49966]

Public Information Officer Ruby Contreras	2025	12/9/2024	
Mayor Chris Bollwage	2023	2/16/2023	Signatories
Mayor J. Christian Bollwage	2022	3/31/2022	

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.).

500

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 youth, 200 adults

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.

Residential yards, Schools, Public Shared Spaces, and parks. The approximate acreage of monarch habitats is including all city community gardens across 30 public schools, housing authority buildings and microforests planted throughout the city.

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

Our Mayor's Monarch Pledge Program allows us to engage marginalized communities to educate them on the importance of Monarch Butterflies and why Our Georgraphical location is especially important to the Monarch Migratory patterns. We also further leverage the pledge by creating habitat in low income communities such as community gardens or creating Micro forest.

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

Our communty understands the significane of keeping urban neighborhoods green and minimizing the impact on local wildlife. Many of the action items we tackled this year is

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u471:v1.14.0.49966]

work we have done years prior but without the designation of being a Mayor's Monarch Pledge City.

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 mock proclamations and informative documents about Monarchs was a very helpful resource for meeting our goals.

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

Many trees and gardens are being planted with the Monarch butterflies in mind.

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

IMG_0100.jpg

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

Jerrys_Free_PlantSale33-01.pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Groundwork Elizabeth, a non-profit focused on environmental resiliency, helped promote Monarch Gardens by educating the communities on the importance of Monarchs and their role in our world. The video was posted to all social media platforms. There are also free plant giveaways, which include not only vegetables that people can grow in their residence but also pollinators plants to attract pollinators like the Monarch Butterfly.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u471:v1.14.0.49966]

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

IMG_0181.jpg

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

IMG_0178.jpg

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)

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202. Garden located behind a Public Library for the City of Elizabeth

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

Groundwork Elizabeth

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.

.10

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:

06/21/2023

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

National Pollinator Week (Mayor's Monarch Pledge Ceremony)

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

IMG_0252.jpg

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u471:v1.14.0.49966]

nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

City of Elizabeth, Groundwork Elizabeth

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.

The City of Elizabeth already has planting ordinances in place throughout the year. The city is working with partners to include milkweed and nectar-creating pollinators in more city centers and streets. The city is continuously dedicated to planting flowers in planters and gardens all over public facilities. The city will be applying for additional funding to plant more milkweeds and nectar plants. 12.31.24 the ordinance has not been formally drafted and signed into legislation and is still in progress of being created. The Mayor's Youth Council will meet with him and the City Councilmen by the end of January to discuss making the proclamation a formal legislative ordinance. We will keep your team aware of any updates for the action.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u471:v1.14.0.49966]