City of Boise

Boise, ID

Mayor Lauren McLean

Pledge Summary

The City of Boise is the capital of Idaho, located in the southwest area of the state, with about 230,000 residents. The city is known for its easy access to a wide variety of recreational opportunities, from biking along the Boise River Greenbelt to hiking in the nearby foothills to skiing at Bogus Basin. Mayor McLean has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with her signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to continuing the work of creating a clean and healthy city for everyone.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 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.
- 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.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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
Mayor Lauren McLean	2025	1/21/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Lauren McLean	2024	2/26/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor of Boise Lauren McLean	2023	3/14/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Lauren McLean	2022	4/21/2022	Leadership Circle

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.)

600 youth, 400 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.

15

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.

Primarily in parks and public spaces. Also, some private residences through milkweed seedling giveaways.

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

Education events at public libraries, and working with children at Title 1 public schools.

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

Concern for the monarch as our state insect. Idaho is a prime breeding area for monarchs and the numbers are dwindling at an alarming rate.

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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?

This is our first year in the program - we haven't accessed NWF resources to this point. We will spend some time during the winter to learn what is available.

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

We're off to a good start, and are motivated to expand next year!

Selected Action Items

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:

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

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.

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

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

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.

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

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)

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

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

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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.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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.)

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

Social Media: The "Idaho Friends of Monarchs" Facebook group was launched in 2021, but gained momentum in 2022. We use this platform to talk about monarch waystations and gardening, coordinate milkweed seed and seedling giveaways, and encourage pollinator friendly gardening practices such as native plant recommendations, eliminating pesticide use, and safely overwintering a pollinator garden. We also enjoy reporting and sharing monarch sightings here.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Many of the posts on the "Idaho Friends of Monarchs" Facebook page are also shared to local gardening group clubs/pages. These posts create awareness about the many important pollinator gardening practices.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Milkweed Seed Packet 10 Labels.docx

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How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Boise Public Library milkweed seedling giveaway in June 2022: 100+ plants. Boise Parks & Recreation provides packages of locally collected native milkweed seed at a range of events including an Earth Day Celebration on April 23, 2022.

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

500

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

Seed and/or seedling giveaways were held in tandem with efforts from the Boise Parks & Recreation, and the Boise Public Library. We also partnered with North End Organic Nursery.

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.

We collaborated with approximately 7 different organizations or groups including Ada County Soil and Water Conservation District, Boise School District, Rotary District 5400, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, New Roots Program, and Idaho Business for the Outdoors.

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

Groups assisted with milkweed growing and monitoring, participated in milkweed seed collection, and engaged in education programs in local parks and public spaces.

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.

Provided pollinator (and monarch) friendly plant lists, including native milkweeds, to Boise Parks and Recreation landscape architects to facilitate an increase in native and pollinator friendly plants throughout City parks. Ensured that native milkweeds are included in all new park pollinator gardens.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

50

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What species were collected or propagated?

Showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa)

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

Elementary school groups, Boise Parks and Recreation volunteers, Ada Soil and Water Conservation District

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

We worked with a local elementary school to collect seed pods in a pollinator garden next to their school. Students learned how to process the pods, and took seeds home to plant. We also collaborated with a pollinator focused volunteer group (Pollinator Posse) to collect and process milkweed seeds from gardens and open spaces across the city. Finally, we hosted a seed collection and processing event in partnership with Ada Soil and Water Conservation District.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Monarch Posters.pdf

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

We have been partnering with local schools and businesses to provide pollinator and monarch focused lessons in pollinator gardens in local parks. We developed some basic lessons about milkweed, monarchs and pollinators to support these efforts.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

6

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Horizon Elementary School Mountain View Elementary School Adams Elementary School Garfield Elementary School Everwild Forest School Idaho Fine Arts Academy (All these are new partnerships this year)

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

We provided handouts with common pollinators and plants as well as milkweed seeds

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How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

200

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

Idaho Business for the Outdoors, Albertsons, New Roots (Golden Eagle Audubon), Rotary District 5400

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

2

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Boise Parks and Recreation maintains the pollinator gardens and open space where milkweed was planted on a regular schedule. During the growing season, gardens are maintained weekly.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

Monarch Field Guide for print.pdf

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).

6

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

Boise Parks and Recreation

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Boise Parks and Recreation engages volunteers in monitoring milkweed for monarch activity and plant health. Volunteers adopt a milkweed patch in a City of Boise park or open space to monitor throughout the growing season. Volunteers collect data on plant phenology, insect activity, and the presence of monarch eggs, larvae, and/or adults. Data are entered into the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper in iNaturalist.

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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?

Boise Parks and Recreation, Horizon Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, Woolly buggers

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We collaborated with local elementary schools to plant native milkweed in three public garden spaces. Students learned about monarchs and milkweed, then installed the plants and/or seeds.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

85

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

We collaborated with volunteers to hand pull noxious and invasive weeds along the Boise River and in open spaces in developed parks throughout the growing season. In addition, Boise Parks and Recreation staff collaborated with City of Boise Community Forestry to remove invasive trees and shrubs from public spaces. The City of Boise is working actively on continuing reduce pesticide use in public parks. Information about the Pesticide Reduction Program can be found at https://www.cityofboise.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/pesticide-reduction-program/#:~:text=2022%20Pilot%20Program%20Update,sports%20fields%20or%20large%20events.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

CS_Monarchs final flat hi.jpg

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

Warm Springs Park Signs_final.pdf

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

13

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

Boise Parks and Recreation maintains 7 signs in city parks focused on Monarchs and Milkweeds (see attached document). In addition, one of our pollinator gardens (Warm Springs Park) has three signs, while a second garden at the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center has an additional set of signs focused on pollinators.

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