City of Boise

Boise, ID

Mayor of Boise 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 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.

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.).

2000

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

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only.)

750 youth 1250 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.

10

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.

Yards, rights-of-way, community gardens, shared public spaces, and parks

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

Although we haven't had the opportunity to create events specifically for marginalized communities, some of our events take place in a small public library branch which does provide services for many in this category. Volunteer projects are open to anyone regardless of privilege and take place in communities spread geographically across the city. We collaborated with a local school-based community center to install a pollinator garden that will impact many low-income and marginalized community members.

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

As with the rest of the country, monarch sighting are much fewer than in years past. The monarch is our state insect, and we are highly motivated to increase safe habitat for them before it's too late.

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 have access to and we utilize many great educational and citizen science resources. What we lack, in some cases, is cooperation with outside entities (those that mow public spaces, those that spray pesticides, etc.). Regardless of many attempts, we haven't been successful in making some of these desired changes in the community.

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

It's been a rewarding experience, and we plan to continue on! Momentum and awareness are building across the community.

Selected Action Items

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Native pollinator plants and shrubs were installed in a right-of-way adjacent to Terry Day Park at 2000 W. Overland Road, Boise, Idaho. Due to staffing challenges, we were not able to plant as many right-of-way sites as planned.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

20

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What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.02 acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The right-of-way will be hand weeded as needed during regular pollinator garden maintenance events.

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

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.

Volunteers with the Parks, Monarchs, and Milkweeds (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cityofboise.org/media/1553/monarch-field-guide-for-print.pdf) program monitored milkweed in Boise parks and open space habitats for milkweed phenology, abundance, and quality as well as for monarch eggs, larvae, and adults. Data were submitted to the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

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

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

Boise School District Whitney Community Center, Boise Parks and Recreation Pollinator Posse

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

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Boise Parks and Recreation collaborated with the Whitney Community Center to install a new sensory focused Pollinator garden at their site located on the campus of Whitney Elementary. Three of the pollinator gardens in the Boise Parks and Recreation system were expanded utilizing native, pollinator friendly plants.

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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.

81

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.

In collabortion with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, contractors were hired to remove Russian olive trees from a park site along the Boise River. Additionally, volunteer and Boise Parks and Recreation staff continued to hand pull several noxious weeds including houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale), jointed goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrica), poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe), puncturevine (Tribulus terrestris) and more at several project sites. When necessary and appropriate, chemical treatments were utilized to control noxious weeds such as rush skeletonweed (Condrilla juncea) and whitetop (lepidium draba). Weed identification workshops and other resources were provided for volunteers with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, the Boise Parks and Recreation Adopt a Habitat Program, and the Boise Parks and Recreation Adopt the Greenbelt Program.

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).

We have maintained the Facebook Group "Idaho Friends of Monarchs" and group numbers have grown in 2023. In this group we share and discuss pollinator gardens, monarch education, news about monarchs, and monarch sightings.

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.

In the Facebook group "Idaho Friends of Monarchs", and often cross posted on other local gardening forums, we share photos of native milkweeds and talk about pollinator/monarch plants, and also offer free seeds or seedling giveaways.

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.

Boise Parks and Recreation Adopt the Greenbelt, Boise Parks and Recreation Pollinator Posse, Boise Parks and Recreation Adopt a Habitat Program, Boise Parks and Recreation Pesticide Reduction Program, Golden Eagle Audubon Society

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

Approximately a dozen Adopt the Greenbelt groups planted milkweed seeds along their adopted habitat sections. The Pollinator Posse maintained and enhanced 6 pollinator gardens, adding milkweed plants and other pollinator friendly plants to each one. Five Adopt a Habitat groups planted 140 milkweed plants, and thousands of seeds. Golden Eagle Audubon Society volunteers grew and planted approximately 2000 milkweed plants throughout shared public open spaces. Boise Parks and Recreation continues to work to include more native, pollinator friendly

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plants throughout planting beds in parks. Boise Parks and Recreation has also been making significant changes to mowing and pesticide use in parks as part of the Pesticide Reduction Program. https://www.cityofboise.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/pesticide-reduction-program/#:~:text=Since%202020%20when%20the%20Pesticide,the%20use%20of%20neonicotinoid%20insecticides.

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

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

Letter to Boise neighborhood associations 2023 - Mayor's Monarch Pledge.pdf

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

We sent the attached letter to all 35 Boise area neighborhood association presidents. The list of neighborhood associations can be found here: https://www.cityofboise.org/programs/energize/neighborhood-associations/

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

We don't have any official reports of changes made as a direct result of this communication. However, we're confident that we raised awareness and that beneficial changes are probable.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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

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

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

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

Jack's Urban Meeting Place, Boise Parks and Recreation, Library! at Hillcrest, Open Arms Dance

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

650

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Open Arms Dance Project, a community of dancers with diverse bodies, ages, and abilities, created a monarch migration themed dance that was performed at two separate Dia de los Muertos events at Jack's Urban Meeting Place (JUMP) , a free public venue. The first performance was preceded by a 30 minute presentation on monarch cultural significance, migration and biology.

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

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

Boise Public Library milkweed seedling giveaway in 2023: 100+ plants. Boise Parks & Recreation: milkweed and native seed giveaway included several native species of pollinator plants as well as Showy milkweed. Seed giveaways took place at several events throughout the fall.

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

75

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.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa), Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), Narrowleaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis)

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

Library! at Hillcrest, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Pollinator Posse, City of Trees Master Naturalists

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

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On multiple occasions in fall 2023, Pollinator Posse volunteers collected native milkweed seed from pollinator gardens across the city. Seed was processed by Master Naturalists and packaged to be distributed throughout the community. Golden Eagle Audubon Society volunteers collected local milkweed seed which was then propagated by volunteers to be utilized at restoration sites along the Boise River. Approximately 2,900 plants were propagated. Alene Hortin from the Library! at Hillcrest collected native milkweed seed and propagated plants that were distributed to the community through the library and other avenues.

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