City of Boise

Boise, ID

Mayor Lauren McLean

Pledge Summary

The city of Boise has a robust Parks & Recreation department which is devoted to a healthy ecosystem. Pesticide reduction has been implemented over the last few years, and most city parks have beautiful pollinator gardens which are maintained by numerous volunteers. We have a Mayor's Monarch Pledge task force consisting of many city departments in addition to U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Soil & Water Conservation, Foothills Restoration, River Rewild Project, and more. Our cumulative efforts benefit our state insect, the Monarch Butterfly, and other pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.)
- 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 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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.
- 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).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.).

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1825

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

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.

2

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.

Private spaces, schools, community gardens, public spaces, trails, open spaces, city parks.

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

Many of the educational and distribution events highlighted in this report have taken place in lower-income areas. Volunteer opportunities are open to anyone.

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

We know that the plight of monarchs and other pollinators is urgent. There is much educating and work to be done. In Idaho, we set these goals to help and protect our state insect.

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?

Within the city we have many community partners who share our goals. However, we do hope to educate and influence other local organizations who, due to costs, cannot make changes to their specific actions that are harmful to our pollinators.

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

It's been a rewarding experience. We lost a key contributor due to a job change, and that has impacted the organizational and reporting efforts of our pledge in 2024. We hope to

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build momentum in 2025, especially with the upcoming USF&W decision on Monarch status.

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):

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.

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

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.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

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)

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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 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.

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).

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)

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)

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

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

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).

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

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.

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

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

What was the date of your festival?

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

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

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)

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

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?

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.

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

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.

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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.

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.

Native Plant Society (Pahove Chapter); Golden Eagle Audubon

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

Joined with the Native Plant Society Pahove Chapter as a milkweed grower.

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

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

We again worked with Open Arms Dance Project for a Dia de los Muertos event in Boise.

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).

60

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 performed during a Dia de los Muertos celebration. They taught the audience how to use ASL to communicate the monarch's lifecycle and the need to plant milkweed. We gave away 40 packets of milkweed seeds at this event.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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16

What species were collected or propagated?

Native Milkweeds and native pollinator flower seeds

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

Boise Parks & Recreation and Boise Public Library actively collect and save native seeds.

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

This is an ongoing effort, not specifically a hosted event.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Arbor Day foundation

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Boise is an active and growing Tree City USA community

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.

CityNature-Flyer_2024.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).

232

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

City Nature Challenge

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

The Ada County Public was encouraged to participate in the bio blitz City Nature Challenge in April. Collectively, the effort date shows that 5,173 observations were made, and 766 species were sighted. (April is too early for monarchs to have arrived in Ada County, so none were spotted in this effort).

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 & Recreations Pollinator Posse and city employees plant and maintain the city's many pollinator gardens.

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

60

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of Boise has an amazing number of parks, with goals for many more. Many of those parks have dedication pollinator gardens which are beautifully maintained by employees and volunteers.

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.

Why Plant Native qsheet.pdf

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

Boise Public Library held a public event about the importance of native plants in pollinator gardens, taught by a local botanist. 40 in attendance. Ada (County) Soil & Water Conservation District held a series of classes about water conservation and designing gardens for pollinators (milkweed was highlighted) with 100 in attendance.

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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 & Recreation, Youth Climate Action Council, Pollinator Posse (amazing volunteers)

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

Boise Parks & Recreation has ongoing involvement with many new parks and pollinator gardens to maintain for habitat enhancement efforts. Volunteers are key to this process.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

DandelionFestPromoFlyer.pdf

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

Boise Parks & Recreation takes part in integrated pest management and reduced pesticide use programs. To celebrate these efforts, they hold a "Dandelion Festival".

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.

This is an ongoing program with the City of Boise.

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.

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We worked with Snake River Seed Co-op to plan a Seed Library, with a focus on natives to the area. Launch of the Seed Library will coincide with a meeting involving directors of local community gardens.

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)

600+ (totals from 4 events and ongoing plant/seed availability)

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

1200

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

We held more than 1 plant giveaway event, partnering with: US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Treasure Valley Native Plant Network, Boise Parks & Recreation, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District, and Boise Public Library

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

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

ww.jpg

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

estimate only : 15

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.

Boise Parks & Recreation service projects with Weed Warriors, and the "Adopt a Habitat" program volunteers focused on city parks, trails and open space to curb invasive Goat Head removal, erosion control, planting and seeding in 2024. An estimate is that 50+ acres were improved for monarchs and other pollinators, with 1,281 volunteer hours! Parks & Recreation also treated a 32 acre area impacted by wildfire, with seeding and native plantings. The Boise River ReWild Project (associated with the Golden Eagle Audubon) focused on maintenance/replacement plants this year as opposed to new habitat sites. Of the plantings, probably 20-30 were milkweed, others were grasses, shrubs and forbs. In all, approx. 180 flowering/pollinator beneficial plants were added to ReWild this spring. One

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new pollinator garden was added to a City park in 2024, and additional plantings were added to existing pollinator gardens. The estimated total for these projects is 195 new plants. It is difficult to pinpoint an accurate number of "new habitat acreage" required for this report.

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