City of Boise

Boise, ID

Mayor Lauren McLean

Pledge Summary

Boise is the capital of Idaho, known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, vibrant arts scene, and growing tech sector. It boasts a mild climate, beautiful parks, and a thriving downtown area. Commitment to the Monarch Pledge: Boise recognizes the critical role of pollinators like monarchs in maintaining healthy ecosystems. We are committed to supporting initiatives that protect and restore monarch habitat, such as: Creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly gardens and green spaces throughout the city. Educating the public about the importance of monarchs and how to support their conservation. Working with local organizations to implement pollinator-friendly practices in agriculture and landscaping.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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

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pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- 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.).

4847

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.)

2696

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

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below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1.75

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.

While creation of new habitat hasn't been extensive this year, maintenance and improvement of vast existing habitat has been. Our teams work in schools, rights-of-way, city parks, community gardens and foothills. It is impossible to estimate the amount of space in private residences that has been created due to extensive outreach, milkweed seed and plant giveaways, and other educational events meant to motivate mindful habitat creation.

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

There has been extensive outreach at K-12 schools in the Boise area. While we don't have the precise numbers, these action will have reached all socioeconomic communities.

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

The Boise community continues to be mindful of the climate crisis, made worse by the current president and administration. We are steadfast in our continued efforts to protect monarchs and all pollinators.

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?

Many times recently it seems that we, those in possession of truth and a determination to protect it, work against a raging storm of misinformation and corruption. Climate crisis is real, biocide overuse is happening, habitat loss is epidemic, yet those in power are denying it, worsening it, and removing funding to fight it. So of course, the funding is essential, but more and more limited every day. Good, factual information is available, but dissemination of that information is met with resistance. Printing costs to distribute materials at educational events are prohibitive as well. Thus, I would welcome multiple copies of a series of brochures about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, which would validate our goals. Bottom line, in terms of resources, I quickly jump to funds. Joining the pledge is free, but I assume some cities receive funding to implement the chosen action items, however Boise does not. Some of the individual organizations connected to our pledge have a budget to work with, but those funds are diminishing due to the new priorities in the US.

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

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Our Mayors' Monarch Pledge task force is made up of 15 members and encompasses 8 organizations. While 2025 has been especially trying, the act of getting out into nature and working as a community to benefit the beauty, innocence and increasingly imperiled monarch butterfly and other insects is the best and most beneficial kind of therapy. We thank you for this opportunity.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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.

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)

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

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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)

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

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

40

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepius speciosa, incarnata, & tuberosa

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

Boise Urban Garden School, Boise Native Plant Society

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

Our seed collecting efforts were not held in a single event, but were done with more than 1 group and on more than 1 date. In actuality, milkweed seed collecting and propagation is likely done in almost all of our group organizations.

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

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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)

Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS), Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, Youth Climate Action Council, Girl Scouts, EverWild Outdoor School

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)

5

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

Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS), Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, Youth Climate Action Council, Girl Scouts, EverWild Outdoor School. These are all existing relationships that we maintain with educational programs about safe habitat. Also, there were teaching days by Boise Parks & Recreation at local middle schools and girl scout meetings.

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

We encourage educators to specifically highlight monarchs and milkweed as they teach about safe pollinator habitat. Beyond that, we only provide milkweed seeds or seedlings when appropriate.

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).

26 educators, 2,216 students (these numbers are approximated as best as possible. Where schools are involved its difficult to get precise numbers.)

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

The list of community organizations are listed above.

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.

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.25

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

Many of the milkweed planted through these efforts will be at home gardens, so we cannot oversee this work. At 2 schools, The Boise Urban Garden School and the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, the gardens are maintained by students, staff and Boise Parks & Recreation.

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.

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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).

720

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

Boise Parks & Recreation, Idaho Fish & Game.

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

Members of our task force supported 2 efforts of citizen science this year. 1. The City Nature Challenge and 2. the Idaho Milkweed and Monarch survey (through Idaho Fish & Game). Again, getting a precise number of participants is difficult with these wide open citizen science efforts, but we have "underestimated" to be safe.

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 & Recreation, Boise Public Library, Boise Urban Garden School, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center, Native Plant Network, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

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

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815

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

All of the organizations listed are part of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge task force. Collectively, they planted and maintained many pollinator gardens in the city.

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.

152

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 spearheaded massive efforts this year in removal of invasive plant species throughout parks, pollinator gardens, and foothills. The Weed Warriors and Pollinator Posse programs rely on volunteers to help with this effort. Plants targeted: cheatgrass, rush skeletonweed, poison hemlock, spotted knapweed, scotch thistle, invasive rose, and russian olive trees.

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).

Actions, mostly community engagement classes & programs, vs. printed materials, were selected for this goal: - The Golden Eagle Audubon Society & Boise Habitat Patch program (represented in our task force) has 100+ enrollees. - Monarchs & Milkweed Community science project program kickoff class taught in 2025. - Youth Climate Action "Brave Monarchs & Milkweed" milkweed monitoring project. - Latino Conservation Week bilingual tour of watershed discusses importance of native plants. - "Adopt-a-habitat" service learning days. 10 events. - Boise School district environmental Field Experience. Middle schools. 4 teaching days - 2 pollinator teaching events with girl scouts. - EverWild outdoor school - 2 guest instructor sessions. - Boise's Native Plant network milkweed monitoring project open to community citizen science. - 7 pollinator and water conservation workshops held at Boise Public Library. - native bee outreach, by Treasure Valley Pollinator Project, also represented in our task force, held at 15 schools and community events. - US Fish &

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Wildlife, represented in our task force, conducted 5 STEM nights and 1 Going Wild event about protecting safe habitat.

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.

During the 2025 early spring season, we had a free seed library at our public library location. In cooperation with Treasure Valley Community Gardens Cooperative, tvcgcoop.org, we had signage of their locations and efforts posted near the seeds. Our contact with that organization is active in promoting native milkweeds and nectar plants that benefit monarchs and other local pollinators in their shared garden space. We will supply the group with milkweed seeds at their upcoming gathering.

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.

Boise Native Plant Society, Master Naturalists, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District, Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS), Boise Parks & Recreation, Boise Public Library, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho State Parks & Recreation, Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center.

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

Individuals from these organizations met in February to read over the proposed action items found in the pledge and discuss with the group what they mean and how they can be achieved. At that time, they all commit to carry out specific action items. Many of the action items suit certain organizations well, so all of those actions are described throughout this report as they collectively make up our pledge.

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)

925

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

1800

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

The numbers above reflect more than 1 event where plants or seeds were provided. Events and organizations included: the Native Plant Network, the Draggin' Wing Native Plant Nursery, Boise Parks & Recreation Pollinator Posse and Dandelion Festival, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District, and Boise Public Library.

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

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

Boise Parks & Recreation

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.

NA

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

Boise Parks & Recreation is ongoing with a pesticide reduction program. To celebrate this effort, a family fun event called the Dandelion Festival is held where vendors gather who align with alternative methods to biocide.

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