City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA

Mayor Jim Kenney

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jim Kenney	2022	4/29/2022	Signatories

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

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none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

This data not tracked

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.

5

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.

public park natural areas, roadsides, community gardens

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

Educational resources provided have been a useful tool to engage marginalized communities around broader environmental issues.

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

The City of Philadelphia continues to value the protection of natural resources on behalf of its citizens, and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a good partnership to demonstrate and quantify that commitment.

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 online resource center has been useful in providing educational materials for distribution to existing community networks. One specific resource that could be useful is provision of physical signs to display at monarch habitat sites.

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

Limited staffing impacted our ability to focus on these types of programs, but internal projects continue to focus on goals that intersect with those of the NWF. It is our hope that we will be able to continue to expand programming and engagement related to environmental issues like this.

Selected Action Items

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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).

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias incarnata, Asclepias tuberosa, Asclepias viridiflora, Matelea obliqua

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

This was an internal city effort involving nursery and natural lands staff

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

Collections from wild populations were made from the above Asclepias species, and related Matelea obliqua, which is critically imperiled (S1) in Pennsylvania. A total of around 2,000 seeds were collected from these species in 2022. Additionally, those species were propagated from prior seed collections and those from 2022 at the city nursery, producing 500 plants that were distributed to public parks across the city.

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.

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

Lawn Conversion Grant_ Establishment Plan.pdf

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

This project was a partnership between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Pennsylvania DCNR. Grant funding was provided by PA DCNR, and the project was installed by private contractors.

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

5 acres of public parkland were identified for conversion from under-utilized mown area to native meadow habitat. Invasive control and site preparation was conducted, and 11 native herbaceous species were drill-seeded into the sites. A multi-year maintenance regime is part of the project contract. See attached project description for details.

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.

5,600

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.

There are 5,600 acres of natural areas within the 10,000+ acres of public parkland in the city of Philadelphia. The natural areas are maintained to support and enhance diverse native plant communities, which includes invasive species control. This work is conducted by staff, volunteers, contractors, and workforce development programs across the system. Management of invasive species in these spaces (plants, pathogens, insects) is undertaken using different means, including mechanical, chemical, and biological controls depending on the species and circumstances. The city utilizes IPM practices to ensure invasive control practices are conducted in such a manner as to minimize any potential negative effects. The department of Parks & Recreation has ongoing research plots dedicated to understanding the effectiveness of different methods of invasive control as part of our natural lands management.

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.

Datasheets provided by the Mayor's Monarch Watch program (planting milkweeds, monarch watch) were distributed to the leaders of 18 different community gardens in Philadelphia, who shared with 600+ members of the community garden network to promote the planting of milkweeds and monarch habitat creation/protection.

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)

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3,500

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

100

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

Over 14,000 native plants were installed during 2022 by the Parks & Recreation natural lands team, with 3,500 of them being donated by the park nursery to a variety of partner groups to install on public lands across the city. The groups include non-profit partners, other city departments, workforce development programs, and volunteer groups. The remaining 10,000+ plants were part of internal city projects executed by staff and contractors as part of larger capital projects related to natural lands restoration.

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

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

Quote Q250517.PDF

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

DNCR_MowToMeadow_MapSet.pdf

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

Details included in the action item 4 above. The 5 acres of public park converted from mown lawn to native herbaceous plant communities are all adjacent major park roadways within West Fairmount Park. The attached quote for a seed mix represents the ratio of species included, but is listed as 1 pound for quoting purposes. 200 pounds of native seed mix were actually installed across the 5 acres.

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

140000

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.

5

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Planting Company will maintain the site through the contract term (ending August 2026) a) Planting Company will maintain the suppression of invasive and competing vegetation through mechanical mowing and herbicide spot treatments. b) During year one of meadow establishment the sites may be mowed 2-3 times. Mowing will occur when emerging vegetation reaches above 8 inches in height. This will be done to encourage root growth and allow sunlight to penetrate for increased germination of the grass and wildflower seeds. b) From year 2-5 the Planting Company will mechanically remove or spot treat invasive species with an herbicide mix to establish 85% or greater native meadow cover. c) Planting Company will seasonally inspect the meadows, addressing maintenance and reseeding any areas with less than 85% native cover.

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