City of Parma Heights

Parma Heights, OH

Mayor Marie Gallo

Pledge Summary

Mayor Marie Gallo accepted the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in tandem with her goal to expand the Parks and Recreation Department in the city. The Parks & Recreation Staff come from various outdoor recreation backgrounds including habitat restoration, natural resources, environmental education & safety. Mayor Gallo hopes to engage the community in abundant and diverse programs including educating the public on the importance of the native species we share our city with.

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.
- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Marie Gallo	2026	3/23/2026	
Mayor Marie Gallo	2025	2/10/2025	
Mayor Marie Gallo	2024	3/22/2024	Signatories
Mayor Marie Gallo	2023	2/3/2023	Signatories
Mayor Marie Gallo	2022	4/30/2022	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.).

1300

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.)

500 Youth 800 Adult

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.

.07

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.

Parma Heights Pool, Trail Connectors, Community Theatre/Center, Resident Yards

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

Parma Heights Recreation has offered classes and pledge material to our charter schools as well as non-resident registration for all our environmental education based programming.

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

One of Mayor Gallo's goals in her first year in office was to expand on the Parks and Recreation Departments. Recreation Director, Stacey Allen, was appointed because of her natural history and park management background. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge was a initiative that sparked passion with the new administration. We all know that when you're

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passionate about the project it fosters connections to nature and relationships in the community.

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?

Hearing from other communities and experts in various fields through the networking meetings have been very helpful. If possible we would love to see more of how to engage Service & Building Department.

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

N/A

Selected Action Items

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.

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.

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)

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

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

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you

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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.

FB post 1.PNG

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

FB post 2.PNG

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

FB post 3.PNG

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

Parma Heights Recreation created a social media tag "Monarch Mondays"- following the life cycle of the Monarch from egg to butterfly. The Rec Department also tabled events throughout the year focusing on the Monarch Pledge and distributing material to community events and schools. https://fb.watch/gvP-o_lquc/

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

MMP Seed Flyer 1.png

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

MMP Seed Flyer 2.png

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

80

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed & Butterfly Weed (Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias incarnata & Asclepias tuberosa)

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

UAW Local 1005

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

Residents, as well as community partners, donated their seeds to the city. Parma Heights Recreation cleaned and bagged seeds for the Pearl Road School open house where students & families learned about the importance of pollinators and how to start the seed germination process. Due to the success of the open house event, seeds were taken to other events like Paw Paw's in the Park with Cleveland Metroparks.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

Ordinance 2022 - 20.pdf

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

Parma Heights Recreation, Parma Heights City Council & Mayor Marie Gallo

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

Complete

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.

06.27.2022

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.

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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.

The City of Parma Heights Recreation Department now has staff trained on the identification and removal of invasive species as well as proper herbicide application by the state of Ohio. This year in Greenbrier Commons an effort was made to control the various species like Forsythia, Berberis vulgaris, Rhamnus cathartic, Pachysandra terminalis & Lonicera japonica. Due to the small size of the park only manual pulling & cutting techniques were used. In order to continue manual maintenance we will be looking for volunteers to be trained on the identification of the plants and help with the restoration of the site.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Pol Garden (uncut).jpg

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

Pol Garden (cut).jpg

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

Pol Garden 1st Plant.jpg

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

Bench Pol Garden 1.jpg

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

Spring Hill.jpg

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)

Pollinator Garden (41.394040, -81.763198) This garden is located right outside of our heavily trafficked community theatre & connector trail to Big Creek Reservation. The community center will be a base for 2023 programming where we will continue education

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efforts on habitat restoration & promoting community involvement in further expansion of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The addition of the pollinator garden in front of the entrance to the connector trail familiarized people with the native plants they are going to see further within the reservation. Our native plants were donated by Spring Hill Nursery a local homegrown nursery.

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

Mayor Marie Gallo, Director Sepik, Director Allen

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.

0.07

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