Bell Acres Borough

SEWICKLEY, PA

Mayor Kenneth Alvania

Pledge Summary

Bell Acres is a small community located in south western Pennsylvania, 20 miles northwest of Pittsburgh Pa There is an abundance of green space in the rolling hills of this boro..Thru a survey done by our Planning Commission for our comprehensive plan, 98% of the residents what to keep the boro green. Council is working hard to follow the comprehensive plan. I think the Mayors for Monarchs program is a way for me to contribute in this effort. I plan to talk to surrounding watershed association, garden clubs and land trusts .about planting milkweed and other nectar rich flowering plants that's my pledge Mayor Alvania

Action Items Committed for 2023

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

Systems Change

- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
MAYOR Ken Alvania	2024	3/16/2024	
Mayor Kenneth Alvania	2023	12/28/2022	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.).

150

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.)

25 Youths 125 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.

0

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.

Big& Little Sewickley watersheds, Leetsdale Garden clubs, Boro Property , Allegheny Land Trust property

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

I Gave Leetsdale Garden club 25 common milkweed plants. The plants were 2-3 feet tall and in 8" pots and distributed to their 5 Boro flower gardens. Two of the flower gardens are in lower income communities

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

When I brought the mayor for monarchs to the Big Sewickley Watershed Association meeting They decided to have a native plant sale in the spring

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The Sewickley Creek Greenhouse Donated 250 common milkweed plants to me . They were all 2-3 ft tall and in 8 ' pots. The Big Sewickley Watershed not only plant sales and giving out seeds, helped me organize a class at the Fern Hollow Nature Center. The class taught folks how to sow milkweed seeds in 1 gallon milk jugs over the winter. All the potting material was donated by Pit Moss

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

That I enjoyed talking to people& groups about Monarchs . That next year is even more productive

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.

Bell Acres Borough , Bell Acres Environmental Advisory Commitee, Big Sewickley Watershed, Leetsdale Garden Club, Sewickley Creek Garden Center, Allegheny Land Trust, Fern Hollow Nature Center

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

Bell Acres Borough-The manager had road dept plant 5 potted milkweed plants on side of Boro building .Bell Acres E.A.C. - I gave members 20 potted milkweed plants for their various trails projects. Big Sewickley Creek Watershed- Seed Swaps& seed give a ways, helped me organize winter milkweed seed sowing.--Leetsdale Garden Club-- I gave them 25 potted milkweed plants, Sew . Creek Garden center donated 250 2-3 Ft in 8 inch pots of common milkweed plants, Fern Hollow nature center let us use their classroom for the winter sowing of milkweed seeds. Allegheny Land Trust allowed me to plant milkweed on their property.

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)

Did not plant milkweed along roads right of ways

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

0

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.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

0

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?

Leetsdale Garden Club

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

25

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Went to garden club meeting with the offer. They agreed to 25 potted milkweed plants , Dropped them off at the presidents house

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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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.

n/a

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

n/a

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.

Allegheny Land Trust, Bell Acres Borough, Bell Acres Environmental Advisory Commitee, Fern Hollow Nature Center, Big Sewickley Creek Watershed, Sewickley Creek Garden center, Leetsdale Garden Club

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

Bell Acres Borough-The manager had road dept plant 5 potted milkweed plants on side of Boro building .Bell Acres E.A.C. - I gave members 20 potted milkweed plants for their various trails projects. Big Sewickley Creek Watershed- Seed Swaps& seed give a ways, helped me organize winter milkweed seed sowing.--Leetsdale Garden Club-- I gave them 25 potted milkweed plants, Sew . Creek Garden center donated 250 2-3 Ft in 8 inch pots of common milkweed plants, Fern Hollow nature center let us use their classroom for the winter sowing of milkweed seeds. Allegheny Land Trust allowed me to plant milkweed on their property.

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)

Gave away 250 potted milkweed plants over the course of the summer.

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

150

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

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Big Sewickley Watershed, Fern Hollow Nature Center, Big Sewickley Volunteer Fire Dept

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.

Went to the Leetsdale Garden Club meeting. They didn't have any milkweed in their 5 flower gardens , so I gave them 25 2-3ft tall potted common milkweed plants for their flower gardens. Big Sewickley Watershed Asso.- Attended a meeting and spoke of the Mayor for Monarchs and they were on board, organizing a native plant sale and helped me to have a native seed and milkweed winter seed sowing class.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

11

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Swamp milkweed, Kale, various Pumpkins, Tomatoes, native flower seeds

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

Big Sewickley Watershed, Fern Hollow Nature Center, Big Sewickley Volunteer Fire Dept

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

I collected seeds from my milkweed, other members brought their collected&/or swapped seeds. We taught guests how to winter sow seeds in gallon milk jugs.

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