# Town of Lamoine

Lamoine, ME

Select Board Member and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas

## Pledge Summary

Lamoine is a town of less than 1,700 on the coast of Maine. The Lamoine Select Board voted in December 2022 to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, authorizing the town's Conservation Commission to lead a number of efforts to create more monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat throughout the town. Planning is underway for a number of projects, which will support the remarkable migratory butterfly, employing a robust team of volunteers, including elementary school students.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

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

### 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 or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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).
- 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.

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## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Select Board Member and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas | 2026 | 1/9/2026 | Signatories |
| Select Board Member and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas | 2025 | 12/31/2024 | Signatories |
| Select Board Member and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas | 2023 | 1/17/2023 | 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.).**

100

**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.)**

20 youth and 80 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.**

1

**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.**

shared public spaces (town hall and the transfer station), school, residential yards

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

One of the events was a free milkweed seed giveaway

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

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Appreciation for monarch butterflies and other wildlife and concern about threats to their survival

**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 two most helpful resources have been willing volunteers who donated time to create gardens, and the generosity of local businesses who donated materials such as compost, mulch, and other products needed to create the new pollinator gardens

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

The garden created at Town Hall, flanking the front steps to the building's entrance, was beautiful and was widely celebrated by residents of the town. The attractiveness of the garden helped raise the profile of the conservation effort.

## 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):**

### 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).**

This was accomplished through posts on the town Facebook page advertising the free milkweed seed giveaway, the milkweed plant sale at the nature festival, and advising residents how to support pollinators (tied in with No Mow May), and through four articles about Mayors' Monarch Pledge in the Lamoine Quarterly, a free newspaper covering town affairs, published every three months.

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

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

Mayors' Monarch sign-HopeZ.JPG

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

The Lamoine Consolidated School

**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).**

20

**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).**

A fifth-grade class was invited to prepare artwork that would appear on the signage in the new monarch/pollinator gardens at Town Hall, the school, and the transfer station. The attached photograph shows the sign with the artist, Hope Zinke.

## 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)**

Over 200 plants were sold and over 100 seed packets were given away.

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

200

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

The Lamoine Consolidated School hosted Nature Night, which where the plant sale was held, and the seed giveaway was in the Town Hall during December and January.

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

6

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**What species were collected or propagated?**

common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) and swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata) this past year and currently in addition to those, butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is being collected

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

Elsworth Garden Club

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

Lamoine Conservation Commission members collected common milkweed seeds and prepared them for the seed giveaway and also raised some seedlings for the plant sale and to plant in the new town gardens. In addition to raising common milkweed seedlings, Conservation Commission members and one project volunteer dug up common milkweed spreading in their own yards to plant in the new town gardens. The Elsworth Garden Club provided seeds for swamp milkweed and six other native nectar plants that were raised by members of the Lamoine Conservation Commission to be used in the new pollinator gardens. This fall, Conservation Commission members have been collecting seeds from three milkweed varieties--common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), and butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa)--to be distributed in the seed giveaway this year and to raise seedlings to add to the town gardens next year.

## 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.**

Mayors Monarch Pledge sign at Town Hall Sept 2023.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)**

At Town Hall, we created three garden areas. The formal garden flanking the steps to the main entrance emphasizes native nectar flowers but does not have milkweed because the location is challenging for caterpillars looking for a safe place to pupate. On one side of the Town Hall lot, another garden area was created with common milkweed, swamp milkweed, joe pye weed, and rudbekia, backing up against an unmowed wildflower fringe dominated by goldenrod and asters. The last new "garden" area created at Town Hall is an area flanking the parking area where common milkweed was planted in the gravelly soil. We also created an expansive pollinator garden that included common milkweed and swamp milkweed spanning half of the parking lot at the Lamoine Consolidated School and occupying the area between the parking lot and the road frontage (very visible and

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attractive). Finally, we planted common milkweed in disused land on the town's transfer station property (across from the dumpsters where town residents bring their trash weekly).

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

The Lamoine Conservation Commission put out a call for volunteers, and about 10 folks stepped up to help in various ways.

**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.**

1

## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

**Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)**

The town transfer station

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

none

**What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.**

0.5

**How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)**

1

**Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.**

Milkweed seedlings were planted in the late spring and transplanted milkweed was added through the summer. Next spring and summer, more common milkweed will be added.

## Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds

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**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)**

One of the educators at the Lamoine Consolidated School partnered with the Lamoine Conservation Commission in organizing Nature Night, where the milkweed plant sale took place. As part of her fifth grade pollinator unit, she partnered with the Conservation Commission on Mayors' Monarch Pledge work. For example, a Conservation Commission member gave a presentation to her class explaining how to raise milkweed seedlings, which the students then did.

**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)**

1

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

Lamoine Consolidated School

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

A guest speaker was provided

**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).**

20

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

none

**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.**

0.5

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

The school garden was maintained by Lamoine Conservation Commission members during the summer, and by students (overseen by their teacher) when school is in session.

## 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.

**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)**

40

**What was the date of your festival?**

June 1, 2023

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

Lamoine Consolidated School

**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).**

The event was not really a butterfly festival. It was an open-house at the school with activities centered on nature generally (student art, nature walk, etc.). The Conservation Commission held a milkweed plant sale at the event and explained the Mayors' Monarch Pledge projects to attendees.

## 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)**

6

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

The six Mayors' Monarch Pledge signs are at Town Hall (3), the Lamoine Consolidated School (2), and at the transfer station (1). In addition to the garden signs, plant labels are placed in the town hall and school garden to label the native plants for the benefit of those who would like to add them to their own gardens.

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