Town of Lamoine

Lamoine, ME

Select Board Member and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas

Pledge Summary

Lamoine is a town of approximately 1,800 on the coast of Maine. The Lamoine Select Board first 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. Our efforts have seen a great deal of success over the past two years. A number of projects are ongoing and new initiatives are planned for 2025.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.)

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.

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

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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.)

25

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.

We did not create any new habitat this year, but we added plants to areas created in the previous two years. The public areas containing monarch habitat that we created are at the town hall, school, and transfer station. We assume that people have created monarch habitat in their own yards using seeds from our seed giveaway and seed sowing workshop (and seedling sales in the previous years along with seed giveaways each year), but we have no way of quantifying that.

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

Lamoine is not very racially diverse, so we did not conduct any outreach among communities of color. We did seeds free of charge and held a seed sowing workshop where all the materials and seeds were provided free of charge, so there was no barrier to participation. General, unscientific observation of the participants at the workshop and those taking seeds from the basket at town hall suggests that a cross section of the community spanning the income scale took part in the program.

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

To support struggling populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators and to engage fellow citizens in activities that will have a positive impact that they can see with their own eyes.

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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?

Thus far, we have been able to maintain an adequate amount of volunteer participation to keep the demonstration gardens looking fantastic. The demonstration garden at the entrance to the town hall in particular serves as an advertisement for all of our Mayors' Monarch Pledge work, and makes the case for the value and attractiveness of native plantings that (hopefully) people are implementing in their own gardens. It will be a challenge over time to maintain enough people who are willing to regularly give time watering and weeding to keep the gardens looking good.

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

The projects in Lamoine have received a lot of publicity and the response is overwhelmingly positive. We have been able to build support for natural resource conservation by improving the town's public spaces at no cost and offering no-cost opportunities for people to enrich their local backyard landscapes. The work has contributed to our town's sense of community and for some, offered optimism about our ability to make a positive impact in the part of the world we can touch.

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:

January 10, 2025

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day in Lamoine

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Lamoine MMP proclamation 2025.pdf

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.)

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

Lamoine MMP publicity 2025.pdf

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

Information about Lamoine's Mayors' Monarch Pledge projects and opportunities for individual citizens to participate in growing monarch host plants and other native plants were presented in the town's quarterly newspaper. Special events such as the free seed giveaway and seed sowing workshop were announced on the town's Facebook page. The seed sowing workshop provided an opportunity to provide more detailed information about gardening to support monarchs and other pollinators. See attached articles and announcements.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Lamoine seed giveaway basket 2024.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

We gave away about 150 seed packets for seven plants species (three of which are monarch host plants) and then held a seed sowing workshop attended by about 40 people

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

40

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

We advertised the seed sowing workshop at our K-8 school (as well as to the public generally), and a number of families with children attended and participated

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

5

What species were collected or propagated?

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Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias incarnata, Asclepias tuberosa, Asclepias speciosa

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

A Mexican restaurant, Casa Jalisco, agreed to let us plant swamp milkweed and butterfly weed in planters around the restaurant so that we could hold awareness raising events there the following year once the plants were established

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

The previous fall, seeds were collected from gardens of Conservation Commission members, including seeds for common milkweed, butterfly weed, swamp milkweed, and showy milkweed. Some of those seeds were prepared, packaged, and distributed through the seed giveaway and seed sowing workshop. Some of the seeds were retained by Conservation Commission members and raised as seedlings in the spring and then planted in the pollinator gardens we previously established as part of Mayors' Monarch Pledge at the town hall and school, adding more plants to the gardens created three years prior. Those plants included butterfly weed and swamp milkweed. Butterfly weed and swamp milkweed seedlings were also planted at the restaurant, Casa Jalisco in preparation for future awareness raising events. The common milkweed seeds collected were direct sowed at the town's transfer station to help increase the number of plants there beyond those the Conservation Commission planted in the previous two years.

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.

Town Hall caterpillar 8-5-25.jpg

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

School garden 2 monarchs Jul 2025.jpg

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

MMP Lamoine sign town hall side plantings 2025.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)

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There are two demonstration gardens. One is at the town hall, with plantings in beds flanking the entrance, which are highly visible for everyone coming to the building. There is also a side planting area where the monarch host plants are located, because there are better places for monarchs to pupate in that area. A second demonstration garden is at the school, bordering the parking lot, and visible to people passing along the road and those parking at the school. The town hall is located at 606 Douglas Highway, Lamoine, ME 04605. The school is located at 53 Lamoine Beach Road, Lamoine, ME 04605.

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

none--this was a Conservation Commission project supported by some additional volunteers

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.

0.01

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

The Lamoine Transfer Station, located at 212 Lamoine Beach Road, Lamoine, ME 04605

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

none--this was a Conservation Commission project supported by some additional volunteers

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.

0.01

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.

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We began planting common milkweed at the transfer station in 2023. It has been difficult to get the plants established because the soil in our target area is very gravelly sand that does not retain moisture. The transfer station is located in a played out gravel pit. We have been experimenting with different methods to support the plants, and have had some success over time; but this year, we experienced a serious drought, and it is only feasible to bring a small amount of water by hand once a week to water the plants. As a result, at a certain point, all the milkweed died. Later in the summer, after we got a little rain, some new growth came up from the roots. We will continue to augment the existing plantings there; we already brought milkweed seeds this fall, and early next summer, we will bring more plants transplanted from Conservation Commission members' yards.

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