City of Grosse Pointe Park

Grosse Pointe Park, MI

Mayor Michele Hodges

Pledge Summary

Grosse Pointe Park is a city bordering Detroit (largest city in Michigan,) with a population of 11,555. The city boasts two lovely waterfront parks. The waterway is part of Lake St. Clair. Grosse Pointe Park took the pledge and earned Leadership Circle status in 2016 under Mayor Robert Denner. Michele Hodges, current Mayor of GPP, has wholeheartedly committed to continuing this effort to protect, and spread awareness about the decline of, the Monarch Butterfly.

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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Systems Change

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

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michele Hodges	2026	1/22/2026	
Mayor Michele Hodges	2025	1/24/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michele Hodges	2024	2/4/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michele Hodges	2023	3/8/2023	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.).

500

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.)

150 youth and 350 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.

0.1

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.

yards, parks, community gardens

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

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We collaborate with our local library to offer free programming, which includes outreach and education, for both residents and non-residents.

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

We were inspired to pick up where the past pledge left off and continue these efforts toward being a more pollinator-friendly city. In particular, our city's butterfly gardens needed attention due to recent changes in management and maintenance.

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 Newsletters and Facebook group have been very helpful! We also connected with Monarch Champions, Rochester Pollinators, who offered invaluable advice and encouragement helping us to navigate this first year.

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

It was hard to estimate the number of people we reached because there were so many events to account for! Grateful to have been able to continue the work that was started with our first pledge back in 2018. We re-connected with many community partners and look forward to creating more relationships and pollinator habitat in the new year!

Selected Action Items

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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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.

IMG_0861.jpg

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

IMG_0860.jpg

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

42°22'33.13" N -82°56'14.71" W, The medians on Jefferson Avenue, East of Alter Rd, in front of City Hall.

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

5

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.

During GPP's Pre-2020 Pledge under Mayor Denner, Common milkweed was planted in the median beds on Jefferson across from City Hall. This was a coordinated effort between members of the Beautification Commission, City garden staff and Contractors. We plan to continue this effort by adding more pollinator-friendly nectar plants.

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:

4/24/2023

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

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Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Pledge Day 2023.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.)

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

WaystationBrochuresCityHall.jpg

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

WaystationBrochures1000HoursEvents.jpg

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

BioBlitzWaystationBrochures.jpg

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

WaystationBrochuresLibrary.jpg

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

We had Monarch Watch's Waystation Brochures at all of our tabling events this year. They were also available at City Hall and the Ewald Branch Library for residents to take. We shared content on social media and are working on adding links to resources on the city's website.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

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familyfundayflier.jpeg

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

IMG_7487.jpg

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

IMG_7491.jpg

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

IMG_7503.jpg

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

IMG_7517.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

We connected with the Grosse Pointe Garden Center, who works with schools doing gardens and lunchtime enrichment. We discussed the possibility of future partnerships, including creating Monarch Waystations together. We also participated in their Family Garden Fun Day Workshop on April 15th, by hosting the butterfly table. We distributed lots of resources, including information about upcoming native plant sales, waystations and pollinator gardening. We performed an anatomy of a butterfly skit and made pollinator headbands with the kids. We also attended a meeting at the Helm assisted living facility on August 14th, passed out Waystation brochures and encouraged them to include native milkweeds and nectar plants in the design of their new gardens.

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.

IMG_1634.jpg

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

IMG_9830.jpg

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

IMG_9838.jpg

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

IMG_9843.jpg

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

SpringExchangeFlier.JPG

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

BioBlitzGiveaway.jpg

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

Fall Exchange Flier.JPG

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

FallExchange.jpg

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FallExchange.jpg

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FallExchange3.jpg

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

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FallExchange4.jpg

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

FallExchange5.jpg

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

FallExchange6.jpg

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

200+

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?

Fall and Spring Exchange with Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, BioBlitz at Oudolf Garden Detroit and various events at Grosse Pointe Public Library including Doug Tallamy lecture via ZOOM!

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.

IMG_0896.jpg

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

PodHarvest.jpg

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

Plant Rescue.jpg

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

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Plant Rescue 2.jpg

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

Milkweed Giveaway.jpg

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

A. syriaca, A. incarnata, A. tuberosa, A. verticillata

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Oudolf Garden Detroit, Resident Volunteers, Grosse Pointe Public Library - Seed Library

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

Our efforts involved coordinating with residents and members of the Beautification Commission. In the Spring, we rescued 200 A. incarnata seedlings to giveaway at events. In the Fall, we worked together to harvest various species of milkweeds from different sites including Patterson Park, resident gardens and Oudolf Garden Detroit. The seeds will be donated to Monarch Watch, Save the Monarchs and our local Seed Library. Last Winter, we also hosted a milk jug seed sowing workshop at the Library and provided several native seeds including milkweed.

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.

IMG_9658.jpg

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

IMG_5471.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

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coordinates, if possible)

The garden is located in the parking lot median between City Hall and Ewald Branch Library. It was established during our Pre-2020 Pledge and has seen changes in management over the last couple years. Our goal is to work with the city to add more native species.

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, City Garden Staff and Contractors

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

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

MGC Challenge.png

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Michigan Green Communities Challenge Silver Certification 2022, In-progress for 2023

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

citizen science.jpeg

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

kits.jpeg

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

observe.jpeg

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

SymbolicMigrationProject.jpg

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

50

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

Grosse Pointe Public Library

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

We encouraged the library to become a hub for Citizen Science by hosting programs that focus on educating residents about Citizen Science. They also purchased Observing Pollinator Kits from SciStarter and made them available for check out at all three branches. We celebrated Pollinator Month in April with various neighborhood walks and events that promoted citizen science. In July, library patrons were also invited to participate in Journey North's Symbolic Migration program.

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

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

IMG_2313.jpg

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

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GardenCleanUp.jpg

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

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

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

366014074_758922036239250_2757460554726975582_n.jpg

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

planting dates flier.jpg

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

Planting Day Volunteers.jpg

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

Native plant donations.jpg

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

Large new bed by Butterfly Garden.jpg

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

GFW donations before.jpg

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

Weeding and Planting.jpg

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

After.jpg

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

Boardwalk beds.jpg

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, MSU Extension, Resident Volunteers, GP Otherworld Nursery

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

206

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Along with the GPPBC, we helped organize Community Garden Clean-up and planting days for the beds along the boardwalk at Patterson Park. Our goal was to add more native plants to the landscaping, as well as diversify the existing butterfly garden, by thinning the existing Common Milkweed and adding more host plants and nectar sources that will bloom all season, particularly late-blooming ones such as Asters and Goldenrods. Residents, along with a local nursery, donated approximately 30 plants total for the beds. We were also approved to receive 192 plants from NWF Garden for Wildlife's donation program. 16 plants were missing from the shipment, but we held a Volunteer planting day on 9/30/2023 and were still able to get 176 plants in the ground!

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Garden_Signs.jpg

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

MassAudubon.jpg

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

MJV_sign.jpg

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

RedMilkweedBeetle.jpg

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

MJV and Garden for Wildlife Signs.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2

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

The sign from Monarch Joint Venture, at the end of the boardwalk at Patterson Park, describes what a pollinator garden is, how it functions and why it's important. There's a QR code that links to this page for more information: https://monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/habitat The laminated sign is a print out from Mass Audubon that describes different species in the milkweed community. It encourages visitors to take a closer look! https://www.massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/activities/family-fun/young-explorers-activity-sheets/milkweed-sanctuary-activity-page This is a temporary sign that will come down in the Winter and go back up during the season when people can spot these species. Another sign was added to the park on 9/30/2023 from Garden for Wildlife's donation program. It further states that it is a pollinator-friendly native plant garden and there is a QR code that sends you to their website.

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.

Milkweed removed from GPP Ordinance.pdf

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Brian Colter Forestry, City Council, City Parks

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

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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.

8/27/2018

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.

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

Milkweed removed from GPP Ordinance.pdf

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, City Staff

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.

8/27/2018

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