City of Grosse Pointe Park

Grosse Pointe Park, MI

Mayor Michele Hodges

Pledge Summary

Grosse Pointe Park is located on the southwestern shore of Lake St. Clair, bordering Detroit, with a population of 11,027. We have committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, earning Leadership Circle status in 2016 under Mayor Robert Denner, and in 2023 under our current Mayor Michele Hodges. Grosse Pointe Park will continue these efforts toward being a more pollinator-friendly city by working in partnership with its newly formed sustainability committee, under the GPP Beautification Commission. Our goal is to build a healthy, sustainable and wild-life friendly community.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.)
- 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 or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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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- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator 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 neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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
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.).

1000

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.)

600

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

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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?

We are on the border of Detroit and other low-income communities. Our library programs are open to non-residents and one of the ways that we can reach these other communities.

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

Our city's gardens still need a lot of attention due to ongoing changes in management and maintenance. We were inspired to pick up where the past pledge left off and keep moving forward toward being a more pollinator-friendly city.

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 online networking meetings have been so helpful! It's great to be able to connect with other communities who have similar struggles or goals. Sample proclamations and press releases are also very helpful to have!

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

Each year we keep expanding our reach and community partners! Grateful to continue this important work!

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:

May 13, 2024

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

Garden for Wildlife Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation GFW Month 2024.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.

Brochures_Plant_Exchange.jpg

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.

FacebookGroup.png

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. We created a Facebook Group to connect with the community about our Adopt-a-Garden efforts at Patterson Park: https://www.facebook.com/groups/gpp.friends.patterson.park

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.

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

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CityPlans.JPG

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

CityPlantings.jpg

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

PattersonPollinatorGarden.jpg

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

Volunteers.JPG

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

Monarch.jpg

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Sustainability Committee, Michiganense Natives, Parks and Rec

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

Communication between the GPPBC and Parks and Rec continues, as we identify areas that can be reserved for habitat at Patterson Park. An Adopt-a-Garden program was created to coordinate volunteers for planting and maintenance. There is a pollinator garden at the end of the boardwalk and designated areas specifically for common milkweed to thrive undisturbed throughout the park. We also raised money through our first native plant sale with Michiganense Natives to be able to incorporate more native plantings at City Hall. This is a location that also provides habitat for Monarchs with nectar sources and milkweed. Maintenance was turned over from a landscaping company to volunteers.

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.

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

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SeedLibrary.JPG

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

AdaptKit.jpg

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

AdaptInstall.jpg

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

NatureCenter.jpg

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

WildOnes.JPG

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Belle Isle Nature Center, Grosse Pointe Public Library, MSU Master Gardeners, Adapt Supported Community Ecology, Wild Ones Wayne County

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

Tabling and opportunities for outreach at the Nature Center, as well as Library events. Our library also has a native seed library and provides native milkweed and nectar seeds free for our community. Master Gardeners participate in our Adopt-a-Garden volunteer program. Adapt provides free native plant kits that include milkweed. Our commissioner Kelly is a GP Community Leader that helps facilitate and install them. Wild Ones Wayne County provides us educational materials for tabling events.

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.

Spring Plant Exchange 2024.pdf

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

Native Plant Sale Social.jpg

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

IMG_6616.jpg

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

4.jpg

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

FallExchange.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)

300

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission (Fall and Spring Plant Exchange,) Michiganense Natives (Fall and Spring Native Plant Sale,) Resident Volunteers

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.

CityHall.jpg

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

CityHall2.jpg

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

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MilkweedBeetle.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)

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. It is now maintained by volunteers. We are working 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, Resident Volunteers, City Staff

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

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.

FlowerShow.jpg

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

FlowerShow2.jpg

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

Presentation.jpg

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

We connected with several community garden groups through presentations and events including the GP Herb Society, Pointe Garden Club, GP Garden Center (Garden Family Fun Day) and the Junior League of Detroit. Commissioner Kelly Konieczki provided an educational exhibit on Monarchs and Milkweed for the annual JLD Flower Show. She also

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assisted with the installation of a Native plant demonstration garden for the JLD annual Showhouse. In addition, we engaged with other community leaders by attending meetings for Wild Ones Wayne County Chapter and Wayne County Conservation District.

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).

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

SeedSowingMaire.JPG

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

DeferElementary.jpg

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)

Connected with schools' "Green Teams" to help with sowing seeds and also applying for a Grant to create new habitat. Gave presentation on the Anatomy of at Butterfly, Monarchs and Milkweed for Earth Day Assembly

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)

3

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

Defer Elementary, Maire Elementary, Pierce Middle School

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

Grant info, Seeds, Symbolic Migration Project

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).

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250 students, 10 educators

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

Wild Ones, MSU Master Gardeners, Parent Volunteers

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

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

TBD

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_0860.jpg

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

IMG_0861.jpg

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

There is Common Milkweed in the medians along Jefferson, South of City Hall. It was established during our Pre-2020 Pledge. Our goal is to work with the city to add more native nectar species.

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

10

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.

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0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintained by Backer landscaping company, managed by the city.

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.

MI Green Communities.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 2023, In-progress for 2024

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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

Patterson_Nature_Challenge.jpeg

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

200

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

GPP Friends of Patterson Park, GPP Beautification Commission

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When did this challenge take place?

June 17-23 (Pollinator Week)

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Our Community was invited to explore the park during Pollinator Week, visit the butterfly gardens and report what they observed. Educational signage describing the importance of milkweed and the insects that rely on it was displayed. The challenge was advertised mainly on social media in the GPP Friends of Patterson Park Facebook Group.

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.

Celebration.jpg

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

Kits.jpg

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

TakeAction.JPG

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

Exploring Patterson Park.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).

100

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

Grosse Pointe Public Library, GPP Friends of Patterson Park, GPPBC

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

Last year our library became a Community hub for Citizen Science by purchasing "Observing Pollinators" kits from SciStarter for all three branches to circulate. Kits are promoted during library programming and are on display for check-out. This year they added "Exploring Biodiversity" Kits to the collection. We participated in 1,000 Acts of Science for Citizen Science Month by holding a celebration event. We also created a project on iNaturalist for Patterson Park to be able to track the biodiversity as we add more native plantings.

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.

NotefromMayor.jpeg

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

Volunteers.jpg

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

Saturdays.png

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

Weeding.jpg

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

Mulch.JPG

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

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PattersonPark.jpg

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

Volunteers2.jpg

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, Adopt-a-Garden Program, Michiganense Natives, Local Wild Birds Unlimited, Local Nursery, MSU Master Gardeners, Adapt Community Supported Ecology

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

200

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Along with the GPPBC, we organize Community Garden Clean-up and planting days for the beds along the boardwalk at Patterson Park. Our continued goal is 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 and Wild Birds Unlimited donated several plants. We held two native plant sales this season, in partnership with Michiganense Natives, and earned plants that we were able to install in the beds by City Hall. We also applied for two free native plant kits from Adapt Community Supported Ecology and they were installed by volunteers in the median bed between city hall and the library.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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.

Signs.jpg

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

3

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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! We added ann additional sign at another milkweed bed this year. 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. The other sign is 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.

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 invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

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BindweedRemoval.jpg

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

IPM Brochure.jpg

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

Phrag.jpg

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

Thistle.jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

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.

Lake St Clair CISMA did a site visit for us in August and confirmed the ID of species that we want to remove. They provided us with resources to help develop an Invasive Species Management Plan, as well as suggestions for management that could be done in the meantime. We dead-headed some of the plants and also did some hand-pulling on Adopt-a-Garden work days.

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.

Asyriaca.jpg

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

SeedSowing.jpg

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

SeedSowing2.jpg

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

Winter Sowing.jpg

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

35

What species were collected or propagated?

A. syriaca, A. incarnata, A. tuberosa

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

Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, GPPL Seed Library, Resident Volunteers

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

We are working together to harvest various species of milkweeds from different sites including Patterson Park, City Hall and resident gardens. The seeds will be donated to Monarch Watch, Save the Monarchs and/or 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.

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