City of Medford

Medford, MA

Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

Pledge Summary

Medford, MA is situated 6 miles north of Boston with close to 60,000 residents. Sitting on 8.6 square miles, Medford has a lot of public green spaces that people come from near and far to enjoy. Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn is committed and passionate about the environment and how that impacts the monarch butterfly and bee populations. As an avid gardener, the Mayor has taken the butterfly pledge and plans on landscaping 7 areas of the city that have been designed by an environmental landscaper to plant native pollinators that align with this pledge, and beyond!

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn	2024	3/27/2024	
Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn	2023	3/30/2023	Signatories

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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.).

50

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.)

35 adults and 5 youth

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.

0.5

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.

The City of Medford installed 7 new pollinator gardens in 2023. The City of Medford hired a local environmental landscape architect to design 5, "Gateway Gardens" in front of new, Welcome to Medford signs. These areas are very prominent and the entryways to Medford. The City also installed a garden on the premises of City Hall, in front of the building. In addition to all this, a few neighborhoods adopted public areas near their homes and made them into pollinator gardens! We have had neighboring communities inquire as to what we've done, and how we did it.

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

We have put the word out. Hopefully the library will help us reach the youth of the lower income and communities of color to participate.

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

The decline of pollinators and the love of gardening.

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?

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This may not be a resourse, but I would like to see more talked about for the education and identification of invasives. We also need to be removing those as we are planting pollinators. It's hand in hand.

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

The City fulfilled, and exceeded the goals for the sourcing and planting of pollinators for 2023! We look forward to finishing out 2023 with seed collection from the garden (not too many though!) and 2024 planning! The Tufts Pollinator Initiative has great resources on the seed collection process. The City recently acquired a seed library (pic attached) that is being installed on a post at the Medford Public Library near their pollinator garden. Local garden club will be supplying the seeds for the library.

Selected Action Items

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.

The Mayor's Office was in touch with various groups in Medford. The Tufts Pollinator Initiative, The Medford garden groups, The Medford Public Library and the Mystic Charles Pollinator group as well as many residents who have interest but not affiliated with any of the above.

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).

The City of Medford Mayor's Office created two web pages dedicated to the education of planting and pollinators (https://www.medfordma.org/departments/mayors-office/pollinator-plants). We share information on specific plants, planting inspiration, where to visit other pollinator gardens and and how to distinguish invasive species that are harmful to the environment. (https://www.medfordma.org/departments/mayors-office/invasives-plants) We also used social media to share the information as well as to reach out to local groups.

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.

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

The Tufts Pollinator Initiative The Medford garden groups The Medford Public Library Mystic Charles Pollinator Medford DPW Highway Division Medford Mayor's Office Members of the Community Local Landscapers

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

Several of the groups did plantings. The City hired an environmental landscape architect - Parterre Garden (https://parterregarden.com/) for designs and planting plans as well as designs and planting plans from Tufts Pollinator Initiative.

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_0839.PNG

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

IMG_0840.JPG

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

IMG_0841.JPG

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

IMG_0842.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.

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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)

This particular garden is in front of Medford City Hall - 85 George P. Hassett Drive

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

The images attached are of the pollinator garden designed by the Tufts Pollinators Initiative (https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/) and installed by Mayor Lungo-Koehn, Lisa Colaianni, members of the Community Garden, Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways and children from the community.

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.

.5

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Parterre Eco Landscape architects, Tufts Pollinators, Medford Community Garden Club, Mystic Charles Pollinators, Residents

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

Completed!

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.

Earlier in 2023

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

An ordinance was not needed. The city's landscape contract was changed from 100% annual plantings to 60% annuals and 40% perennial.

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