# City of Florence, KY

Florence, KY

Mayor Julie Metzger Aubuchon

## Pledge Summary

The City of Florence is located in Boone County, Kentucky. With roughly 32,000 residents, we are one of the fastest-growing communities in Northern Kentucky. We have 5 neighborhood parks, a Nature Park and several green spaces around the City. Mayor Aubuchon is committed to the restoration of monarch butterfly habitat in our community.

## 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Julie Metzger Aubuchon | 2026 | 1/22/2026 | |
| Mayor Julie Metzger Aubuchon | 2025 | 1/8/2025 | Signatories |
| Mayor Julie Metzger Aubuchon | 2024 | 2/20/2024 | Signatories |
| Mayor Julie Metzger Aubuchon | 2023 | 4/10/2023 | Signatories |

## 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.).**

250

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**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 adults, 100 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

**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 gave away milkweed seed packets to residents. They were instructed to plant the seeds in their existing gardens or containers if they did not have the space.

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

All of the events where we hosted milkweed seed giveaways were free to the public. We always promote the events on our website and message boards around the City. The three events were held in different locations in order to serve all the areas of our community.

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

The City of Florence is interested in engaging with the community on topics that are important to them. The Mayors' Monarch Pledge is a national cause that has local implications. We are proud of our native environment in Kentucky and we work hard to protect it. The City thought the Mayors' Monarch Pledge would be a good opportunity to reach out to residents about these environmental matters. Our Urban Forestry Commission headed up these efforts since they are familiar with our native plants.

**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 reporting information was very helpful since this year was our first time pledging. It would be helpful to see more information available that we could put on posters and signage. We don't want to copy directly from someone else's work so some general information we can use would be great. We were also worried about putting incorrect information on signage.

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

Our Urban Forest Commission is looking to expand our efforts next year with the creation of monarch gardens on City property as well as examining our maintenance practices City-wide.

## 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:**

September 16, 2023

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

MMP Proclamation 2023.pdf

### 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.**

MMP Sign.pdf

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

IMG_0276.jpeg

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

Mayor with MMP sign.jpg

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

154 seed packets were given away at 3 events.

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

250

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

We gave away seeds at 3 City events: Public Services Night Out (May 23, 2023); National Night Out (August 1, 2023); Arbor Day Celebration (September 16, 2023)

## Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Monarch Garden Guide.pdf

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

MMP Sign.pdf

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

We had three interested home owners associations. They were the following: Saddlebrook Farms HOA, 99 Saddlebrook Ln, Florence, KY; Countryside Condominiums HOA, 6711 Curtis Way, Florence, KY; Preston Pointe HOA, 1001 Maggie's Way, Florence, KY.

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

The Mayor contacted representatives from several HOAs to see if they were interested in creating or promoting monarch gardens. We sent out our Monarch Garden Guide to those HOAs that were interested. We also reached out and invited them to our Arbor Day event. We planted trees and gave away milkweed seeds and native plants.

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