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 6 active 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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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.).

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200

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.)

75

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.

The City passed out milkweed seed packets to residents at four different events this year. Residents were instructed to plant the seeds in their gardens or even in containers if they did not have space for new plants.

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

Milkweed seed packets were given out at four different community events around the City. They were held in different areas as to serve all residents in our community. The events are promoted online and on message boards around the City. Events were held both during the week and over the weekend. Our park master plan public surveys were online so to better reach folks throughout the area.

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

The City of Florence chose to continue our work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge for a second year because it is important to our community. The residents we have interacted with this year were eager and engaged with their environment. Mayors' Monarch Pledge remains an excellent opportunity to reach out to residents about these environmental matters. The Urban Forestry Commission continues to be involved with these efforts as well to promote native trees.

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?

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

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information we can use would be great.

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

The City of Florence is continuing to integrate pollinator friendly practices into our plans and policies. We are master planning our parks and have taken those practices into consideration.

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 21, 2024

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

6914.25 Florence PMP - Concept Diagrams.pdf

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

Florence Mayor and council members, Park Master Plan Committee, two public online surveys, Public Services Department

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

In progress

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

The Park Master Plan will be completed in the spring of 2025, but we have concept plans that are very close to the final plans for our parks. In 2024, we have done public outreach and talked with City departments to form plans that benefit both our community and pollinators. The plans include converting currently maintained grass areas to natural meadows with native plants.

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_1396.JPEG

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

IMG_2040.JPEG

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

203

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

150

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

City of Florence Urban Forest Commission and Public Services. We gave away seeds at 4 different City events this year.

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