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 2026

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 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

- 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.).

150

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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.)

60

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 of Florence hosted five public events where milkweed seed packets were distributed. Native plants including milkweed were prizes at our Arbor Day event as well. Residents were told to plant in their home gardens or even in containers depending on their space.

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

Our public events are purposely held in different areas across the city. We advertise these events on various message boards at our parks and facilities as well as on social media. All events are free and open to the public. We give away food and other items that include native milkweed seeds at no cost. We have informational signage that tells the story of monarch butterflies and their importance to our ecosystem.

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

The City of Florence is dedicated to the Mayors Monarch Pledge. We continue construction on our parks master plan which includes more native prairie areas for pollinators. The Mayors Monarch Pledge remains a great avenue to engage the public about environmental issues. The Urban Forest Commission also continues to engage with the Pledge through native plant giveaways and plantings.

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 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?

The Urban Forest Commission plans to put out more informational flyers and pamphlets in the coming year. Information regarding the Mayors Monarch Pledge will be a part of this public outreach effort.

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 19, 2026

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2026.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.

IMG_3740.JPG

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

IMG_8184.JPEG

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

IMG_8185.JPEG

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

IMG_8186.JPEG

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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)

150

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

The City of Florence Urban Forest Commission, Mayor and Public Service Department partner together to host events and giveaways.

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.

Pages from PLANS-2026-0219 SP-ORLEANS PARK PH 1-BID SET.pdf

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

Recommended Species list 2026 update - draft.pdf

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

We worked with those in the Public Services Department including grounds managers, field technicians, infrastructure analyst, and department director. Several professionals were consulted as well including landscape architects and arborists.

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

We completed our park master plan last year which redesigned 6 of our existing parks. We are in construction phase 1 of 4. The entire master plan will take approximately 10 years to complete in full. Part of the master plan was to plant more native and pollinator-friendly species. This collaboration involved our project management team, engineers, and grounds staff. A preliminary plan is attached with more native plants/trees and potential areas to add meadows. Our Urban Forest Commission maintains a recommended tree species list for city and residential plantings. This list is updated every year with the help of a certified arborist.

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