City of Lafayette

Lafayette, CO

Mayor JD Mangat

Pledge Summary

Lafayette, CO is a vibrant city located north of Denver with a population of approximately 32,000 residents. We value our many open spaces, wildlife species, and native plants. Our community prioritizes our planet and all of the creatures that inhabit it.

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.
- 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 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

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor JD Mangat	2025	1/16/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor JD Mangat	2024	3/12/2024	Signatories
Mayor JD Mangat	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.).

3110

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 youth, 2510 adults

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.

3

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.

City-owned open spaces, demonstration gardens, and residences.

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

Our Nature Kids /Jovenes de Naturaleza program engages youth of marginalized communities within Lafayette in a bilingual paid internship accomplishing projects throughout our Open Spaces year round. These high schoolers complete restoration projects including plantings, invasive weed removal, seed dispersal, and many other habitat enhancement or restoration projects. These interns were educated about Monarchs, and our Mayors' monarch pledge to inspire them to advocate in their communities and neighborhoods for monarch conservation. The interns spread over 5lbs of showy milkweed seed throughout the community and gathered and dispersed seeds from existing plants this fall.

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

We are a wildlife-conservation focused community and want to demonstrate that pollinators and monarchs fall under that umbrella as well.

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?

Responsible mosquito control, creating habitat for stem-nesting bees, providing nature plant nursery resources, guide to passing wildlife friendly property maintenance ordinaces. Bilingual (spanish/english) materials would be beneficial and resources on engaging other smaller communities (we have a Hmong population in the Front Range that could be engaged more).

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

We are a City focused on meaningful projects, with 1,800 shrubs planted this year, 26 acres seeded with native forb, grass and milkweed mixes, and thousands of invasive species manually removed or controlled biologically. We had a volunteer group trained by the Monarch Larvae Monitoring Program who monitored and reported on Monarch observations throughout the summer, putting Lafayette on the map for the first time. Our Wildlife Plan development is unique in that it focuses on wildlife conservation instead of the typical human-wildlife management plans we typically see. Upon its finalization, we will be implementing best practices to preserve and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat and create more spaces for wildlife like monarchs to succeed.

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:

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

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

Approximately 9.7 acres

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.

Invasive species are managed on our Open Spaces through mechanical, chemical, and biological mitigation methods. 20 releases of biological control were utilized this year to manage noxious weeds including: Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, field bindweed, and puncturevine. Biennials such as cut-leaf teasel, common teasel, common mullein, and moth mullein were mitigated by hand-pulling rosettes and cutting off flowering heads. Kochia was treated both mechanically by hand-pulling and raking prior to going to seed. Puncturevine was also hand-pulled by volunteers in addition to the use of puncturevine weevils on large patches. Non-native grasses have been removed and replaced with native grasses such as Buffalograss, Blue Grama, Sand Dropseed, and Prairie Junegrass. Russian olives were hand-sawed and treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth.

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).

Social media posts were shared throughout the summer discussing planting native plants like milkweed in yards: Example from 7/7. "How can you help local wildlife? Creating pockets of habitat in urban environments is one of the best ways to benefit our native species! Planting species like Showy Milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) benefits all pollinator species, but monarchs need it to survive. Including plants like this in your landscaping supports all parts of the monarch life cycle, giving them a safe space to feed, rest, and reproduce 🦋 Curious about which native plants to put in your yard? Visit our webpage and scroll to "Wildlife Resources" to find a list of native plants that benefit wildlife in Boulder County.🌻 https://www.lafayetteco.gov/160/Open-Space" "News Flashes" were sent out to all residents who subscribe to both the City and Open Space calendars encouraging them to sign up for "Monarch Monitoring", a volunteer program where people monitor a specific patch of milkweed throughout the summer and record data. They report data on the Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project site after going through multiple trainings. Those who

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signed up for the volunteering project learned in-depth about the benefits of milkweed, good places to grow milkweed, and why they should plant milkweed in their neighborhoods. Example of a News Flash sent out to all residents: "Calling all monarch lovers! The City of Lafayette Open Space is partnering with Monarch Larvae Monitoring Program to train volunteers to monitor local monarch populations throughout the summer. The process is fun and simple, and you get to spend time outside while helping gather data contributing to national and global science"

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.

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

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

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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

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.

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

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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).

30

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

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Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project, Boulder County Youth Corps, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, iNaturalist

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

For our Wildlife Plan development, the community made it clear they wanted to report wildlife observations. An iNaturalist closed group was created where residents of Lafayette and the surrounding area could join and make observations in and around the City. We had over 300 observations submitted in the period it was open. We brought in a trainer from Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project to train volunteers on monarch lifespan, reproduction, and monitoring protocols. Volunteers spent the summer observing monarchs in Open Spaces and other residential areas and reported their findings.

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

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

550 packets of a native seed mix created in-house were handed out at our Earth Day Every Day event, Migratory Birds Festival, and Ecotoberfest. Each packet contained hundreds to thousands of a seed mix that included showy and swamp milkweed along with many other native forbs that will succeed in this region.

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

4700

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

There were three events where seed packets were distributed. Earth Day Every Day was put on by City of Lafayette Open Space and Sustainability divisions and had over 50 vendor booths all relevant to Earth Day, nature, and/or sustainability. This included Boulder Watershed Collective, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Boulder County, Thorne Nature Experience, and more. Our 10th Annual Migratory Birds Festival was organized by Lafayette Open Space and we partnered with roughly 40 vendors including Nature's Educators, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and more. Ecotoberfest was organized by Lafayette Sustainability, City of Louisville, Town of Erie, and City of Superior. The event had over 50 vendors including UCAR Center for Science Education, Resource Central, Keep it Clean Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, Partners in Energy, and more.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

15

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What species were collected or propagated?

Showy Milkweed

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

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Thorne Nature Experience, Friends of Coal Creek

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

Our Nature Kids Interns spent two weekends (4 hours each) responsibly collecting and distributing milkweed seed in City-owned properties. A seed sowing volunteer program was hosted this fall where volunteers were provided milkweed seed along with other native forbs and native grasses, and the seeds were distributed at and around a trailhead.

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.

2022-43 Lafaeytte Fire Station #1 Demonstration Garden 75% plans 11.18.2022.pdf

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

MicrosoftTeams-image (7).png

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

MicrosoftTeams-image (2).png

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

MicrosoftTeams-image.png

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)

Lafayette Fire Station #1, 401 N. 111th St Lafayette, Colorado 80026. This is a demonstration garden for City of Lafayette and neighboring residents to educate people on native, xeric, and fire-safe landscaping with an emphasis on benefit to the environment and

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local wildlife/pollinators. This is a highly trafficked area and is directly across the street from a City-owned Open Space (Outdoor Classroom) that has large patches of Showy Milkweed.

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

City of Lafayette Parks, Recreation and Open Space department and Sustainability department

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.

0.24

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

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

n/a

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

In progress

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

Our City is developing its first Wildlife Plan, focused on wildlife conservation. It provides best management practices to enhance habitats, protect wildlife, and preserve our public lands. The recommendations section of the plan includes best practices to benefit pollinators, including monarchs, so that pollinator conservation can be more successful within Lafayette.

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