City of Lafayette

Lafayette, CO

Mayor JD Mangat

Pledge Summary

Located in the Colorado prairie, the City of Lafayette takes pride in its commitment to conserving the delicate ecosystem that supports monarch butterflies and their habitat. As stewards of the land, we have implemented various initiatives to protect monarch populations, including the planting and preservation of native milkweed species, essential for monarch breeding and feeding. Through community partnerships and educational programs, we strive to raise awareness about the importance of monarch conservation and inspire collective action to safeguard their migratory journey.

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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.

Systems Change

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

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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.).

2005

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.)

79

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.

2

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 properties

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.

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

We prioritize wildlife conservation and with a specific focus on pollinators in Lafayette.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

It would be helpful to have resources on best practices for milkweed seed establishment

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

We have started pursuing a rigorous process to achieve Pollinator District Designation, issued by the Butterfly Pavilion. This process requires intensive inclusive community engagement, soil enhancement, habitat assessments and more. This 5 year designation process will ensure accountability and enhance our practices to benefit pollinators.

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:

4/16/24

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

D3. Attachment C - Mayor's Monarch Pledge Proclamation.pdf

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

County Native Comprehensive Plant List.pdf

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Open Space has partnered with our Planning Department to provide documents (attached) to developers that encourage use of native plants in development landscaping. Additionally, notes are provided to developer applicants regarding their landscape plans where I provide

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native alternatives to their proposed species that will benefit native pollinators including monarchs. The City of Lafayette is reducing non-functional turf at our City-owned facilities and has replaced turf with xeric, native plantings at three of our facilities including City Hall, the Library, and our police station. These plantings provide native habitat and food sources for monarchs.

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)

50 packets of native seed mix curated by staff were handed out at Ecotoberfest. Each packet had several hundred native forb seeds. Additionally, a seed swap was hosted at this same event and we provided roughly 7-8000 native seeds all of which were given away.

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

800

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

City of Louisville, City of Superior

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 25 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.

13 noxious weed removal projects occurred over the last year in varying open spaces targeting Cutleaf and Common Teasel, Russian Olive, Canada Thistle, and Kochia. These projects covered roughly 9 acres of property. The primary method to remove these weeds was mechanical- volunteers, interns, and staff used hand tools to remove the weeds and reseed after each project. 5 releases of biocontrol were used this year to target invasive species including: Field bindweed, Leafy spurge, Puncturevine "goatheads", Diffuse/Spotted knapweed An open space inundated with curly dock was spot sprayed with herbicide and reseeded to re-establish native plant growth where plant communities had been choked out by the dock. No broadcast spraying occurred on any property.

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Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.

We are in the process of completely renewing our Integrated Pest Management plan to incorporate a prioritization of pollinator health. This is done with guidance from Butterfly Pavilion/Urban Prairies Project. A first step taken in 2024 was complete elimination of glyphosate use in Open Space. We have also completely ceased all broadcast spraying of herbicide, only spot spray applications occur on noxious plant species. Communication with other departments has begun to reduce herbicide use in parks and other locations.

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