City of Lafayette

Lafayette, CO

Mayor JD Mangat

Pledge Summary

Lafayette is dedicated to safeguarding the vital role of native pollinators in our ecosystem, with a special focus on the conservation of monarch butterflies. Through education initiatives, habitat restoration projects, and long-term preservation efforts, we aim to create a thriving environment where pollinators can flourish. By engaging the community, enhancing green spaces, and supporting sustainable practices, Lafayette is building a legacy of stewardship and biodiversity that ensures a bright future for pollinators and the ecosystems they support.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit 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

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.).

850

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.)

350

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.

2.5

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, City facilities, residential/HOA landscaping

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

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We engage our bilingual, community-informed Lafayette Youth Corps, composed primarily of low-income and BIPOC youth, in hands-on stewardship projects, including monarch education and collecting and spreading monarch-friendly native seed. This paid, accessible program builds local leadership and ecological connection while reducing barriers to participation. We also engage low income families by offering discounted turf conversion for their homes.

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

Our community continues the Mayors' Monarch Pledge because we are a wildlife-oriented city, guided by our Wildlife Plan, and remain deeply committed to protecting monarchs and other pollinators through sustained, community-driven conservation efforts.

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?

Like I said last year, more resources and evidence on effectiveness of mosquito fogging and steps municipalities can take to reduce those insecticides.

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

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).

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

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

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain

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mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Three: Parks, Golf, and Sustainability Divisions/Department

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

Open Space division scheduled Butterfly Pavilion/Urban Prairies Project to lead a training for our Parks Maintenance staff regarding best landscaping practices for pollinator health since many of our city-maintained landscape areas have been converted to xeric/native plants. They received a 4 hour training on weed control, best mowing practices, when to prune/cut back species, all with pollinator safety being the highest priority. Open Space has worked with Golf staff to leave stands of milkweed in non-playable areas and to minimize herbicide use in native patches within the golf course. Golf works with our Fire Department to burn a ditch that runs through the golf course and Open Space reseeds with native pollinator friendly species such as golden rod, four-o-clock, and milkweed.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

City of Lafayette Planning Department, Western Resource Advocates

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.

The city is actively updating land use code, including landscape code requirements for new developments.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

Lighting Code Update.docx

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

City of Lafayette Planning 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

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.

Zoning code update is under review, slated to be finalized in 2026

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

See attached for proposed code language.

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:

April 1

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

MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE DAY

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

6. Mayors' Monarch Pledge 2025.docx.pdf

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

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

10 HOAs participated in workshops and/or implementation of turf conversion. The CIty partnered with Resource Central to host workshops and implement changes.

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

The City hosted 2 workshops for HOAs focused on turf conversion and resources available to them, including funding consulting, rebate incentives, benefits of conversion for water savings and pollinators. The workshops were 2 hours long and the resources provided are available on our City webpage. Two HOAs implemented turf conversion following these workshops in partnership with Resource Central. Each HOA converted a minimum of 5,000 square feet of Kentucky Bluegrass and replaced with waterwise, pollinator-friendly species.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

We are in year 6 of our Nature Kids Interns, now called the Lafayette Youth Corps. It is a subsect of a larger program, Nature Kids | Jovenes de la Naturaleza Boulder County. The Lafayette Youth Corps (LYC), a joint program of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and City of Lafayette Open Space, is a community-informed, bilingual (English/Spanish) paid youth corps program that engages primarily low-income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) high school students in hands-on environmental stewardship in Lafayette, Colorado. The program is designed to foster local leadership, ecological literacy, and mental well-being through place-based restoration work. Activities are centered around local natural areas, helping youth build a connection to their own watershed and understand their role in protecting it. Over 75% of participants identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA2S+. The program offers pay to all participants to reduce barriers to participation – especially important in a post-COVID economic landscape. It is also a bilingual program that is facilitated in both English and Spanish. The youth corps members are recruited annually through partnerships through Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza Boulder County, which serves as a sort of community board for bilingual programming for underserved residents across the county, through flyers placed intentionally thoughout the City, and through word of mouth with previous and current youth corps members and their families. Approximately 50% of youth corps members return each year, with some members moving into leadership roles this year. The LYC have weekly projects September-April on Saturdays. Their projects are stewardship based and take place exclusively in Open Space. They build bug hotels, collect and disperse native seeds, remove weeds, mitigate wildfire concerns through vegetation removal, plant native species, and build trails. https://www.lafayetteco.gov/2724/Nature-Kids-Interns Additionally, we provided an income-qualified Garden in a Box program, which is a turf to pollinator landscape conversion program we host in partnership with Resource Central.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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StaceyLongrey Mural Resize 1.jpg

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

Friends of Coal Creek, Stacey Long Reynolds, Lafayette Arts and Cultural Resources Department

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

200

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

The City partnered with Friends of Coal Creek, a local non-profit, and created a community-driven art project to promote pollinator and monarch awareness and conservation, while celebrating local culture. Collaborating with Friends of Coal Creek, the City's Arts and Cultural Resources Department, and hundreds of residents through a community survey, Stacey Long Reynolds installed a vibrant mural of native pollinators, including monarchs, at our most popular trailhead. The project not only beautifies the space but also raises awareness of the vital role pollinators play in our ecosystems and community heritage.

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)

58 plants (blue flax plugs and crabapple trees), 6lbs of native shortgrass prairie wildflower seed at events but primarily through our native seed library at the Lafayette Public Library

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?

Growing gardens, City of Louisville, City of Lafayette Open Space. Library, and Sustainability divisions

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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8

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias speciosa

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

Lafayette Open Space volunteers, Lafayette Library

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

Open Space staff ethically sourced milkweed seed pods (approximately 25% of seeds per plant at most) from our Open Space properties. Open Space then hosted a seed cleaning event at the Lafayette Public Library for volunteers. Showy Milkweed seeds were cleaned and bagged to be used in future restoration efforts.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

City of Lafayette Open Space volunteers, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, Thorne Nature Experience

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

https://www.lafayetteco.gov/2820/Wildlife-Plan Our Wildlife Plan was approved in 2024 which serves as a guiding document for restoration and conservation in Open Space as well as provides a framework for policy setting that best benefits wildlife. This year, we have had 42 (and counting) projects that are guided by the Wildlife Plan, with 2,868 new plants put in the ground and watered until establishment. Implementation of the Wildlife Plan will be ongoing in perpetuity, demonstrating our goal of being a wildlife-friendly city.

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

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

Waterwise Demonstration Garden Comprehensive Plant List-2024.xlsx

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

Staff, contractors

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

13

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Staff maintains a pollinator garden at Greenlee Wildlife Preserve and adds a few flowers or shrubs annually. This year we added blue flax, showy milkweed, snowberry, and maximilian sunflower to the garden. The existing plants that are maintained include Canada Goldenrod, Agastache rupestris, Asclepias speciosa, fernbush, golden currant, penstemon strictus, rocky mountain bee plant, woods' rose, blue grama. Our Waterwise Demonstration Garden was planted in 2023 and is currently maintained by contractors to hand pull and cut back vegetation seasonally. Five wild blue flax were added to the garden this year. Attached is the full plant list for that garden.

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.

4.17 acres of invasive plant removal

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 plants are removed mechanically by hand by Youth Corps and Volunteers. Common Teasel rosettes are dug up, unflowered stalks are pulled and flowered stalks are cut at the base. Youth Corps removed Common Teasel in two Showy Milkweed patches with Monarchs. Invasive trees including Russian Olives and Siberian Elms are cut at the base and stumps are treated. Other invasive plants (Kochia, Goosefoot, Canada Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Moth Mullein, Common Mullein, Clover and Diffuse Knapweed) are pulled by hand, getting as much of the root as possible. We mitigate seed dispersal by cutting and bagging seed heads before pulling the plant. After each event, sites were reseeded or replanted with appropriate species so that food sources for pollinators continue to exist in these areas. Additionally, we had 20 releases of biocontrol to manage field bindweed, leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, and puncturevine.

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

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

Parks, Golf, Open Space, and Sustainability divisions/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

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.

n/a

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

This action is ongoing in perpetuity. Open Space has eliminated all glyphosate use entirely, and all herbicide use in any Open Space with water. We have instead opted for biocontrol, or mechanical removal, onboarding new Open Space Steward volunteers for the first time to assist us in regular weed control. We utilize prescribed burns and strategic mowing for weed control as well. Parks has reduced their frequency of spraying as many of their maintained landscapes have converted from turf to waterwise and native plantings. They have moved to much more handpulling by seasonal staff instead of spraying by a full time staff member. Open Space and Sustainability met with Parks and Golf to begin strategizing for long term reduction in herbicides. Parameters were outlined in this meeting including no broadcast spraying, spot spraying early in the morning before pollinators are active, and not spraying flowering plants. The City has a neonicotinoid ban in perpetuity, so those pesticides are never utilized in any circumstance. We are working with Xerces society moving forward to identify a clear path in reducing municipal herbicide use where possible.

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