Eureka Springs

Eureka Springs, AR

Mayor Robert (Butch) Berry

Pledge Summary

Eureka Springs is a quaint little community in the Ozarks, in northwest Arkansas. We have one of the largest park systems in the country and a commitment to including native plants throughout our parks and the town in general. This commitment includes the planting of over 1,000 milkweed plants this year alone, and including interpretive signs related to monarchs in at least two of our parks.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly 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.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor of Eureka Springs Robert "Butch" Berry	2023	3/1/2023	
Mayor Robert (Butch) Berry	2022	12/20/2021	Leadership Circle
Mayor Robert (Butch) Berry	2021	2/3/2021	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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

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

Many of us recognize the tragic loss of biodiversity we are experiencing, and monarchs are one of the species at risk.

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?

We have several resources to which we refer, and none could be described as "most helpful).

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.).

200

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 parks and gardens, as well as encouraging private citizens to plant bee-gardens in their yards.

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

All are invited to participate.

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.)

175 adults and 25 youth.

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

N/A.

Selected Action Items

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).

We had a "Monarch Madness" day at the community center where we had a presenter explain to guests the importance of Monarchs. Literature was provided and plants were available.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Community Center Patrons--Presented a class and had a plant sale. Permaculture Group--Discussed monarchs and other pollinators in a class.

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.

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

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We are planting a native plant garden at a city park and planted milkweed in city gardens.

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

Two: Community Center and Permaculturalists.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Currently working with Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners for upcoming events.

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

2

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

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

100

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

Master Naturalists.

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

500

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

100

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

Propagated over 1,000 milkweed plants.

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What species were collected or propagated?

Three varieties of milkweed plus several pollinator attractors.

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

Community Center, Master Naturalists.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

Planted at Lake Leatherwood City Park.

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

Master Naturalists.

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.

.5

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

We have a full-time gardener who maintains the gardens on an almost-daily basis.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

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Mostly on Spring Street and at Lake Leatherwood City Park.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

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

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

200

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We propagated over 1,000 milkweed. Sold most, but planted 100 to 200 in the gardens.

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

Community Center, Master Naturalists.

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.

5

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.

Removing cedars and other invasive plants from our glades.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Community Center.

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How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

200

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Classes were held and outside there were plants to sell and give away.

What was the date of your festival?

Earth Day.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Signs are currently being designed.

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