City of Columbus

Columbus, OH

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

Pledge Summary

Columbus is a city in central Ohio with a population of roughly 878,553. The city has a strong commitment to sustainability and has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050. Mayor Andrew J. Ginther has committed to saving the monarch butterfly by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and engaging residents in creating more pollinator habitat throughout the city. The main arms of this initiative are the Columbus GreenSpot program and programs within the Recreation and Parks Department along with dozens of community partnerships.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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.

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Andrew Ginther	2026	2/23/2026	
Mayor Andrew Ginther	2025	2/21/2025	Leadership Circle

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Mayor Andrew Ginther	2024	3/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther	2023	2/6/2023	Signatories
Mr. Andrew Ginther	2022	12/23/2021	Signatories
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther	2021	2/4/2021	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.).

20000

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.)

not sure

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.

17.5

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.

yards, schools, rights of ways, parks, community gardens.

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

We do promote the volunteer opportunities and rebate program to some of our partners (ex. Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services) that operate in low-income communities.

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

Milkweed and pollinator species are critical for a healthy environment, healthy community, and improved quality of life in our city. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge let's us see what other communities are doing and that let's us know our efforts are part of a nation-wide effort to save the monarch butterfly.

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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?

Social media toolkit would be great.

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

n/a

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:

June 21, 2020

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Columbus Mayor Monarch Proclamation 2021.jpg

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)

253

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?

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

1416

What species were collected or propagated?

It was more educational, but 1,416 people took our online course or in-person workshop on the benefits of native trees, plants, and rain barrels. The native plants discussed included the different species of milkweed, bee balm, aster, black-eyed susan, coneflowers, etc.

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

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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

We promote Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's milkweed seed collection efforts by amplifying their voice on social media and to our GreenSpot membership (20,000+ people). They work with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other organizations to propagate the seeds.

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've done several Facebook and Twitter posts through our Columbus GreenSpot program and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. Additionally, we've worked with our partners at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to do educational outreach on native plants (as well as rain barrels and composting). We had a booth at the Franklin Park Conservatory's "Pollinator Palooza" event in June where we also read the Mayor's Monarch Day Proclamation to the attendees. Our Columbus Recreation and Parks held a "Pollinator Field Days" event where they had activities for kids, catch and release butterflies and learn how to tag monarchs. Did a pollinator habitat scavenger hunt and tried out the @iNaturalist app to document the flowers and pollinator species we saw. Participants also helped with habitat restoration efforts by removing invasive species or collecting native prairie seeds.

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.

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

HOMAGE2.jpg

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

we planted: Three Creeks Park (4.7 acres), Franks Park (1.2 acres), Big Walnut Park (1.3 acres), Anheuser Busch Sports park (0.5 acres), Kilbourne Run Sports Park (0.2 acres), Raymond Memorial Golf Course (9 acres), Retreat at Turnberry Park (0.3 acres), Clinton-Como Park (0.3 acres), and Dodge Park (0.02 acres). Total, we seeded 17.5 acres with native nectar plants. Groups we worked with include: The Ohio State University (OSU), OSU Extension's Master Gardeners, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Green Columbus, Scott's Miracle-Gro, HOMAGE, and volunteers from Columbus Gives Back.

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

The groups helped with plantings, clearing invasives, and promoting events.

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.

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

Groups we worked with include: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, The Ohio State University (OSU), OSU Extension's Master Gardeners, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Green Columbus, Scott's Miracle-Gro, HOMAGE, and volunteers from Columbus Gives Back.

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

We hosted Master Gardeners at both of our Pollinator Field Days. They had a table and shared out education on pollinators.

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

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coordinates, if possible)

Same as the answer above for Action 4. Three Creeks Park (4.7 acres), Franks Park (1.2 acres), Big Walnut Park (1.3 acres), Anheuser Busch Sports park (0.5 acres), Kilbourne Run Sports Park (0.2 acres), Raymond Memorial Golf Course (9 acres), Retreat at Turnberry Park (0.3 acres), Clinton-Como Park (0.3 acres), and Dodge Park (0.02 acres). Total, we seeded 17.5 acres with native nectar plants.

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

e: The Ohio State University (OSU), OSU Extension's Master Gardeners, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Green Columbus, Scott's Miracle-Gro, HOMAGE, and volunteers from Columbus Gives Back.

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.

17.5

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