City of Columbus

Columbus, OH

Mr. Andrew Ginther

Pledge Summary

Columbus is Ohio’s capital and largest city with a population of 905,748 and covers 226 square miles. With over 300 parks and hundreds of community gardens of varying sizes, Columbus is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. Columbus continues its resident engagement through the city in promoting pollinator habitats that benefit the monarch butterfly.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.)

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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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
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

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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.).

10000

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.)

80 adults; 20 children

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.

.75

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.

Mock Park

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

We work in our Opportunity Neighborhoods (low-income) in promoting stormwater education which includes promoting native plants.

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

Demonstrating that native plants; especially milkweed, is critical for healthy habitat and community.

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?

Not sure at this time.

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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.)

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

March 2022 Monarch post.png

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

Whetstone Prairie Commonly Observed Species (Final) (1).pdf

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

April 2022 Bioblitz Post.png

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

April 2022 Pollinator Planting at Turnberry Post 2.png

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

April 2022 Pollinator Planting at Turnberry Post.png

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April 2022 Post.png

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August 2022 Post.png

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

November 2022 Post.png

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

October 2022 Post.png

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

September 2022 Post about Educational Sign.png

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

September 2022 Post for Pollinator Field Day.png

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

September 2022 Post.png

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

We educate the community on the benefits of milkweed and native plants through social media, website, departmental newsletters, events, and classes (rebates on native plants). In 2022, we hosted spring workshops for native gardens and posted about it on our social media channels (post attached). In April, we participated in the City Nature Challenge bioblitz (post attached). A commonly observed species list, attached, was used in a 2022 bioblitz. Each year we organize Pollinator Field Days in the fall to encourage residents to support pollinators, including monarchs (posts attached). In 2022, they occurred on September 10 and October 1.

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)

297

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

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300

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

We team up (fund) with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to implement our GreenSpot Community Backyards program which offers $50 rebate on native trees, rain barrel, or $25 rebate on native plants. While we don't have exact numbers of milkweed that was purchase we do know 257 native plant rebates were used. Additionally, we gave away approximately 40 milkweed plants of three different species at the October 1 Pollinator Field Day in 2022. Ohio State University Extension Master Gardeners were present to provide advice to residents on which species of milkweed to choose.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

160

What species were collected or propagated?

Common milkweed, swamp milkweed

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

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension Master Gardeners

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

We supported our partners at FSWCD in their milkweed seed collection efforts. We promoted their efforts on social media through the Columbus GreenSpot program. While a county-wide effort, Columbus is by far the largest city in the county. Hundreds dropped off milkweed seed pods. Columbus Recreation and Parks volunteers also collect native pollinator plant seeds, including milkweed, at the annual Pollinator Field Day at Whetstone prairie--approximately 60 attendees in 2022.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

September 2022 Post about Educational Sign.png

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

PollinatorEducationalSignage_web.jpg

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

9

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

We designed a consistent pollinator sign, attached. Eight of those signs were installed in 2022 at Antrim Park, Carriage Place Park, Clinton-Como Park, Dodge Park, Franks Park, McKnight Outdoor Education Center, Retreat at Turnberry Parkland, and Three Creeks Park. One sign at Whetstone prairie was installed in 2018, for a total of 9 pollinator signs.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

see previous report

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

complete

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.

see previous report

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

This was done a few years back and we reported on it already.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

Public Utilities; Recreation and Parks Department

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

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in progress

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

We encourage native yards through social media posts and such. As long as they are well kept they are permitted in city code.

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