City of Columbus

Columbus, OH

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

Pledge Summary

Columbus is a city in central Ohio with a population of roughly 906,528. 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 2023

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.)
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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.).

23000

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.)

n/a

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.

Two habitats were created, both in public City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Dept. Parks, specifcally, at Stockbridge and Stoneridge Park.

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

Columbus Recreation and Parks plans events in parks in low income communities and communities of color to engage in pollinator maintenance events.

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?

Resources that have been the most helpful so far come from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Transportation pollinator

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recommendations. New resources that I would like to see that would be useful is more recent studies of pollinator habitat implementation in urban cities.

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

We promoted our partners Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District in their milkweed seed take back drop off.

Selected Action Items

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.

IMG_0835.JPG

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

IMG_0838.JPG

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

Grange Audubon Center, BESA, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, Friends of the Alum Creek Tributary, Greenspot.

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

2900

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department purchased 2,900 plugs to be planted at various pollinator habitats across the city. CRPD completed the planting efforts from CRPD volunteers. Of the 2,900 plug plants, 228 plugs were native milkweeds while the remaining were native flowers and grasses.

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.

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

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Corporate groups volunteered including Homage and Plaskolite. CRPD also collaborated with Grange Audubon Center.

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

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department have pushed back their mowing schedule of conservation mow areas (mowed once a year) and pollinator habitats from mowing after October 15th to now, mowing after November 1st/ after the first frost to account for climate change. As for planting programs, CRPD planted at 5 different pollinator habitats totaling 2,900 plugs across the 5 locations.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

Pollinator Maintenance (1).jpg

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

Pollinator Maintenance (2).jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

4.76 acres of pollinator habitats were treated with pesticides to remove invasives and 6.41 acres of invasives were removed from pollinator habitats manually.

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.

The invasive species removal program at Columbus Recreation and Parks in 2023 included 21 volunteer events and staff only events at 14 pollinator habitats. Volunteers use hand tools including pruning saws, loppers, and pruners, to cut invasive plants near the ground and as level as possible when treating stumps. Where possible, volunteers will use shovels to dig out the roots of invasive plants or simply rip small honeysuckle out of the ground. When staff are removing invasives they use the same tools as volunteers or chainsaws and chippers where applicable. In addition, staff use backpack sprayers, handcan sprayers, and larger tank sprayers in the bed of an ATV; sometimes the stumps are painted directly with a brush or a bottle. Invasives are hauled off-site when possible and used as compost, unless the BMP for that plant is to be bagged up in a trash bag and thrown away. Some woody invasives are sometimes left to decompose and become wildlife habitat.

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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.

Pollinator_1.jpg

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

Pollinator_2.jpg.png

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Pollinator_3.jpg.png

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Pollinator_4.jpg.png

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Pollinator_6.jpg.png

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

Pollinator_9.jpg.png

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

Pollinator_10.jpg.png

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

Pollinator_11.jpg.png

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

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department posted 11 social media posts (attached are screenshots) across CRPD's three main social platforms: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram for a total of 33 posts. Columbus GreenSpot had 10 posts on its social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) for a total of 30 posts. Additionally GreenSpot included a blurb about its Community Backyards programs in the eNewsletter which goes out to 20,000 people. City partners like Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, and Green Columbus have also posted dozens of posts about pollinators.

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