Borough of New Britain

New Britain Borough, PA

Mayor Jim Donovan

Pledge Summary

New Britain Borough is a small borough of 8,000 residents in central Bucks County. We are a PA Bird Town, a Tree City USA, and a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat. As a community, we have demonstrated a long-time commitment to providing habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife through the planting of hundreds of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials in our public spaces, including the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, which has been recognized at both the local and state level for the habitat restoration work we have done there. Participating in the Mayors Monarch Pledge initiative is a natural extension of the work our community has long been working on.

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

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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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Borough Council President Tom Price	2026	4/30/2026	
Mayor Jim Donovan	2025	3/10/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor James Donovan	2024	3/20/2024	Leadership Circle

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.).

500

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.)

0

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.

1

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.

Orchard Park, Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, private residences

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

N/A

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

We are a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat

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?

?

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

?

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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.

Residents Urged to Continue Supporting.pdf

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

Article in Borough newsletter encouraging residents to create Monarch/pollinator habitat

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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.

Encouraged members of the Borough's community garden to plant Monarch and pollinator-friendly native plants in their garden plots.

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

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

EAC Plant Sale Flyer.pdf

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

600+

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

150

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

This native plant sale is an annual EAC event

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?

Joint effort by our EAC, Nature Preserve Committee, Parks & Rec Committee, and Shade Tree Commissionj

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

In 2025, New Britain Borough was recertified as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat, a PA Bird Town, and a Tree City USA.

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

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

Parks & Rec Committee and Nature Preserve Committee

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

60

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

New pollinator-friendly perennials were added to Orchard Park's community garden. Additional perennials were added to the meadows in the Borough's Nature Preserve.

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

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

Nature Preserve Committee, Parks & Rec Committee, Public Works

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

Ongoing policy - No herbicides, insecticides, or other chemicals are used on Borough property

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.

Preserve is 34 acres

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.

Our Nature Preserve Committee has continued with its ongoing efforts to remove invasive shrubs and vines from the Borough's Nature Preserve.

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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?

Shade Tree Commission

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.

Not completed

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

In progress

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:

Did not do yet

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

N/A

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

ProclamationMonarch Mayors Pledge Day.pdf

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

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

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

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

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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)

Our pollinator demonstration garden plots are located in the Borough's community garden in the Borough's Orchard Park

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

Joint effort by our EAC and our Parks & Rec Committee

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.

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