Milwaukie

Milwaukie, OR

Mayor Lisa Batey

Pledge Summary

Milwaukie is a suburb of Portland with a population of approximately 22,000 residents. Milwaukie Bay, in the Willamette River, is the point at which both Johnson Creek and Kellogg Creek empty into the Willamette River. Milwaukie residents have a deep tie to the natural areas in our community, and the City Council recently selected Enhancing Parks and Greenspaces as one of our Council Goals for 2025-2027. The City has joined with local advocates, including the Rotary Club, the Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association, and the Milwaukie Parks Foundation, in attaining Bee City, U.S.A. status and launching the Milwaukie Pollinator Pathway. Mayor Lisa Batey is excited to add this Monarch Pledge to the work the community is doing to support pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

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

Systems Change

- 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
Mayor Lisa Batey	2025	3/18/2025	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

0

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.

3

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.

downtown streetscape, residence, shared public spaces, rights-of-way

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

We hope to engage more with local schools in the coming year. 55% of the student body at Milwaukie High School, adjacent to our downtown, identifies as non-White.

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

The Mayors' Monarch Pledge is a good companion piece to Milwaukie's Bee City, USA certification. Although monarch sightings in the Portland metro area are relatively rare, we are hopeful that enhanced pollinator plantings will support any monarchs that do pass our way.

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?

Will have to give this further thought.

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

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Although monarch sightings in the Portland metro area are relatively rare, we are hopeful that enhanced pollinator plantings will support any monarchs that do pass our way.

Selected Action Items

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.

The City of Milwaukie regularly engages with a wide variety of groups active in the conservation sphere in our Earth Day, Arbor Day and other events: the Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Environmental team, the Milwaukie Parks Foundation, the Milwaukie Environmental Stewards Group, the Milwaukie Garden Club, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, the North Clackamas Watersheds Council, Clackamas County Master Gardeners and the Xerces Society, among others. Milwaukie staff additionally work with counterparts at the City of Portland, Oregon Metro (regional government), the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and Clackamas Water Environment Services (wastewater treatment provider). Pollinator conservation was a featured part of the City's 2025 Earth Day event as well as the Milwaukie Sustainability Fair in September, led by the Milwaukie Environmental Stewards Group.

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

See response above.

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?

In 2025, Milwaukie was recognized as a Bee City, USA affiliate – adding to nearly a decade of being a Tree City, USA. Milwaukie also provides some financial support for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, operated by the Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Audubon) and the Columbia Land Trust. See www.backyardhabitats.org. Dozens of Milwaukie residents have certified backyard habitats under this program – including me!

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

One piece of the Bee City certification was Milwaukie's Pollinator Pathway -- see https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/towns/milwaukie

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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)

20

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

Milwaukie now displays Bee City USA signs on three arterial streets as one drives into our community. Further, the Pollinator Pathway project has placed signs along the downtown streetscape where community groups have adopted different blocks and corners for pollinator gardens. Pollinator Pathway signage is also available to residents and businesses who register those pollinator gardens they have planted.

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?

Other plans were consulted, but this was primarily a staff-led city effort.

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

The City of Milwaukie does not use pesticides at City facilities, and we follow Portland’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan in management of other public properties. A Milwaukie-specific IPM incorporating Bee City principles (no persistent pesticides) will be created and implemented by February 2026. Milwaukie is part of the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, which also follows an IPM plan.

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