The Borough of Downingtown

Downingtown, PA

Mayor Phil Dague

Pledge Summary

Downingtown is a borough in Chester County, PA 33 miles west of Philadelphia. It has a population of roughly 8,000 residents. The borough is home to almost 100 acres of parkland and has the east branch of the Brandywine River running through its center. Mayor Dague of Downingown, PA is eager to help any resident, volunteer group, and government board who is looking to improve the borough's green spaces and he looks forward to engaging the community in environmental literacy through education and demonstration.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Phil Dague	2025	3/21/2025	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.).

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.)

25

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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.

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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.

Community park along walking path

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

The location of the garden is in a community park that straddles two different demographics of the borough.

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

Our motivation was to engage our local government officials with the importance of sharing our park systems with the creatures who co-habitat our Borough. We also wanted to emphasize the beauty of native plants and encourage our community to plant natives in their own yards.

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?

We engaged with the visual resources you offered but did not utilize many.

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

We are also working on earning the NWF Community Habitat Certificate.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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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 have purchased 5 signs from Victory Garden of Tomorrow (https://www.victorygardenoftomorrow.com/garden). They include Firefly habitat information, Leave the Leaves, No Mow, and Pollinator Garden. We also created a Leave the Leaves sign specific to our town and why we're choosing to let the leaves stay in a certain section of Kerr Park, the most visited park in our borough. We've placed Pollinator Habitat signs in a new garden installation in Johnsontown Park along a popular walking trail and in an established Pollinator Garden in the heart of downtown at Armor Alley.

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

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)

The garden was installed in Johnsontown Park (122 Viaduct Ave, Downingtown PA 19335). There is limited cultural significance but more awareness concerning the plight of the Monarch. Monarchs migrate through Chester County in May heading north and in August-October heading south.

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

We engaged with the local government, the Shade Tree Commission and Public Works. We received donated garden design by MSE landscape associates and grants from the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society and Xerces Society. We had several community

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volunteer opportunities for site prep, planting days, and weeding days throughout the year resulting in approximately 50+ different volunteers including honor students and scouts.

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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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.

removal.jpeg

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

under_bridge.jpeg

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

investigating_bridge.jpeg

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

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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.

We removed Japanese pachysandra (by hand) from under a bridge next to a pollinator garden we're planting. We replaced the pachysandra with native Packera aurea - golden ragwort - and native ferns, Ostrich and Christmas. Throughout the growing season we also removed invasive weeds growing in the pollinator garden.

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