City of Sandusky

Sandusky, OH

City Commission President Richard Brady

Pledge Summary

Located along the Sandusky Bay shoreline, Sandusky has been named the Best Coastal Small Town in America! Although most often referred to as a destination city, Sandusky is HOME to near 25,000 residents. From historic architecture, vibrant neighborhoods and a bustling downtown to incredible access to greenspace, parks and recreation ... Sandusky is an incredible place to live, work, play and visit. City Commission, led by President Dick Brady, are committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. They are committed to the creation of more pollinator habitats throughout the city.

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.
- 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 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
City Commission President Richard Brady	2025	4/21/2025	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.).

100

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.)

50

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.

Cholera Cemetery, East Park, Mills Creek Golf Course, Sandusky Rec @ Mills School

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

Our youth programming is free and over 50% of our participants are low-income, and/or communities of color

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

We have a stream of monarchs making their migration each year. Their sustainability is important to our community and city leadership.

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?

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More youth-friendly activities we can implement into our programming.

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

We had a slow start, but are looking forward to 2026.

Selected Action Items

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:

Monday, April 28, 2025

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

PROCLAMATION: Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

04282025 Sandusky Commission Monarch Pledge.pdf

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

dark sky ordinance 2024.pdf

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

This legislation came from our Planning Department with engagement with the City Manager. All city commissioners in attendance voted for the legislation.

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

This legislation is "in progress" as all future construction must abide by these rules.

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

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This is an ongoing change to our zoning codes.

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.

Cholera Cemetery.png

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

Sandusky04.jpg.jpeg

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 Greenhouse staff planted a pollinator garden at our Cholera Cemetery. We also let our milkweed plants grow outside our current Recreation Center.

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

Our Friends of the Greenhouse assisted with this project.

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.

.5

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.

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

Sandusky Snake.jpeg

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

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We work with our Friends of the Sandusky Greenhouse volunteers (20 members) about Monarch and pollinator importance. We also have a naturalist with Erie MetroParks on site on a monthly basis for nature hikes including butterfly and insect instruction.

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

Our Out of School and seasonal break programs include a nature component where a naturalist from Erie MetroParks takes our participants on a nature hike of an adjacent creek to our facility.

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.

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

2024336.00_Impact Map_04-03-2025.pdf

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

Erie Soil & Water Conservation District Erie MetroParks Sandusky Recreation City of Sandusky Greenhouse Staff City of Sandusky Grounds Staff

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

We are currently undergoing a $900k project to restore a wetlands area at our Mills Creek Golf Course. The project will help with runoff and clean a local tributary to Lake Erie.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

We have a Wetlands Restoration project going on at our nine hole municipal golf course that started in November of 2025 and will wrap up in April of 2026. In working with the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District, it is our intent to plant monarch and pollinator friendly species once the project is complete. The project is utilizing H2Ohio funding.

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