Town of Clinton

Clinton, NJ

Mayor Janice Kovach

Pledge Summary

The Town of Clinton, located in scenic Hunterdon County, New Jersey, is a vibrant community with a population of approximately 2,800. Known for its historic Red Mill, charming downtown, and natural beauty along the South Branch of the Raritan River, Clinton is committed to environmental stewardship. Mayor Janice Kovach has pledged to protect the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The Town has already taken important steps to protect fireflies and night pollinators through a habitat and lighting initiative developed in partnership with Sustainable Jersey. Clinton looks forward to continuing these efforts by engaging residents in creating, restoring, and enhancing pollinator habitat throughout the community.

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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Janice Kovach	2026	2/15/2026	
Mayor Janice Kovach	2025	4/25/2025	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.).

25

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.)

10

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.

parks, town hall

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?

raise awareness on the plight of pollinators to expand our native plants gardens and garner support for the light pollution ordinance.

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?

website

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

this was a first year. we hope to be more fully engaged in 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:

August 13, 2025

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

Declaring August as Monarch Butterfly Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Buttlerfly Pledge signed.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 DRAFT.docx

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

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Dark Sky New Jersey, Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Clinton Conservancy, Clinton Green Team

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.

Our attorney has adapted our existing ordinances to include that latest lighting specs from Dark Sky NJ. The ordinance was discussed at the November 12 meeting. There will be further discussions with code enforcement and the business administration. We plan to formally introduce in January 2026 and adopt in February 2026.

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.

Invasive Removal 2.jpg

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

Photo Invasive Removal.jpg

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

~2 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.

The Clinton Conservancy undertook an effort to remove invasive species from the area around the children's pollinator garden. Some of the species removed include multiflora rose, barberry, and autumn olive. The rose and barberry were removed by hand and autumn olive was cut off at the base with an herbicide painted on. In the spring additional native species will be planted in the area.

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

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encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

n/a

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.

n/a

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

n/a

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.

n/a

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

n/a

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

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What species were collected or propagated?

n/a

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

n/a

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

n/a

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

0

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

n/a

When did this challenge take place?

n/a

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

0

Please describe your challenge and the results.

n/a

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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.

n/a

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

n/a

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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.

n/a

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

n/a

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