

Borough of Fanwood

Borough of Fanwood, NJ

Mayor Colleen Mahr

Pledge Summary

Fanwood is a borough in Union County, NJ with a population of approximately 7,700 residence. The community is characterized by tree-lined streets, small parks and valued natural spaces such as the Fanwood Nature Center, which provides important habitat and environmental education opportunities in an increasingly developed region. The Mayor of Fanwood has committed to protecting the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to working with residents, schools, and community partners to expand and enhance pollinator habitat throughout the Borough.

Action Items Committed for 2026

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Colleen Mahr	2026	2/4/2026	

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 (e.g., 50).

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

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).

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

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

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

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.

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.

[FANW-2026-1009-Garden Cleanup Event-R1.pdf](#)

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

[Nature Center Demonstration Garden.pptx](#)

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)

Fanwood Borough Municipal Building: 75 Martine Ave and Fanwood Nature Center: Cray Terrace

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

Fanwood Environmental Commission, Fanwood Volunteer Gardeners, Boy Scouts, Community Volunteers

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.

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

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

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

Fanwood Community Gardeners, Fanwood Environmental Commission, Rahway River Watershed Association

How many plants were planted?

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

To maintain demonstration gardens at borough hall - Winter sowing of 10+ species of native plants such as butterfly milkweed, swamp rose mallow, swamp milkweed, marsh marigold and blue indigo. 20 hours Jan-Mar on sowing related activities including research and acquisition of seeds from RRWA. 5/2/2026: Native seed giveaway, demonstration for the public on importance of native plants to support pollinators, improve soil health and create sustainable landscapes; To create demonstration garden in Nature Center - with the help of Environmental Commission and community volunteers, 8x8 fenced area was cleared of invasive plants and approx. 40 native, pollinator friendly, species were planted.