Town of Black Mountain

Black Mountain, NC

Mr. Larry Harris

Pledge Summary

Town of Black Mountain - Monarch Conservation Actions – 2021 - Engaged with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants at the Dr. Wilson Community Garden - Maintained native milkweed and nectar producing plants in public community gardens at the Dr. Wilson Community Garden under the leadership of Dianna McCall. Numerous gardeners have milkweed, tithonia, zinnia, etc. in their personal plots and there are common areas that have over 50 common milkweed plants and native wildflowers. - Engaged with city parks and recreation and public works to revise and maintain mowing programs around the monarch lifecycle in areas with milkweed, which include 10 acres of the field/disk golf course at Veterans Park with over 300 common milkweed plants. - Planted and maintained a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at the Black Mountain Public Library. We now have 4 locations on town property that are maintained as pollinator gardens or meadow totaling over 1 acre. In addition to the 500 sq ft garden at the library, these include a 400 foot long strip section along Village Greenway, a ¾ acre meadow at Veterans park, and a 1,000 sq ft slope meadow at Lake Tomahawk. - Worked with the local schools to plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in public right of way in median along Village Way, between Primary and Elementary school on the section adjacent to the Black Mountain Greenway. Black Mountain Elementary students are growing flowers from seed to be added to the garden in 2022. - Initiated and supported community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health by conducting a monarch monitoring program through the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project. Over 10 volunteers helped to count monarch caterpillars in both spring and fall of 2021. - Displayed educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat at our Monarch waystations at Lake Tomohawk and Veterans Park. We will be working on new signage in 2022. - Pollinator Garden Coordinator, Emily Sampson held two educational public events (spring and fall) that focused on understanding the monarch lifecycle, the importance of pollinator conservation, and included discussion of how to create pollinator spaces on both public and private property.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.)

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- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor C. Michael Sobol	2026	3/12/2026	
Mayor C. Michael Sobol	2025	4/23/2025	Leadership Circle
Mr. Mike Sobol	2024	4/13/2024	Signatories
Mr. Larry Harris	2022	4/21/2022	Signatories
Mayor Larry B Harris	2021	3/19/2021	

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.).

150

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.)

60 youth and 90 adults

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.

0.02

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.

Schools, community garden, park

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

Holding 2 community events, one in spring and one in fall, touring the monarch waystation

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

To do our part to create hospitable environments for pollinators

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?

Ideas for community events would be most helpful

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

We have kept up maintenance on the 4 existing monarch waystations on town property including the small (less than 1000 sf) areas at the library, lake tomahawk, and Black Mountain Greenway (village section) and the ½ acre wildflower meadow section at Veterans park. We have kept up with the mowing schedule of the 10 acre disk golf course to allow for the field, which contains more than 300 milkweed plants, to remain uncut during the late summer/fall monarch migration period. We have also added an additional pollinator garden area at the Black Mountain Primary School. The area in front of the school was planted this fall with the help of around 20 volunteers along with Black Mountain Primary 3rd graders. https://www.buncombeschools.org/article/855649 A Warren Wilson Colledge student intern worked with us this year, for the 4th consecutive season, monitoring monarch populations in the Veterans park Waystation and entering data in the National Monarch Larva Monitoring Project database. We held 2 community events, one in spring and one in fall, touring the monarch waystation. These focus on pollinator/meadow ecology and on conservation and included a monarch butterfly tagging event in the fall. Local Media was present at both events. https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/people-flock-to-black-mountain-garden-to-witness-thousands-of-pollinators-firsthand/ar-AAYCwTJ

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

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.)

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

We held 2 community events, one in spring and one in fall, touring the monarch waystation. These focus on pollinator/meadow ecology and on conservation and included a monarch butterfly tagging event in the fall. Local Media was present at both events.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

We have kept up maintenance on the 4 existing monarch waystations on town property including the small (less than 1000 sf) areas at the library, lake tomahawk, and Black Mountain Greenway (village section) and the ½ acre wildflower meadow section at Veterans park. We have kept up with the mowing schedule of the 10 acre disk golf course to allow for the field, which contains more than 300 milkweed plants, to remain uncut during the late summer/fall monarch migration period. We have also added an additional pollinator garden area at the Black Mountain Primary School. The area in front of the school was planted this fall with the help of around 20 volunteers along with Black Mountain Primary 3rd graders. https://www.buncombeschools.org/article/855649 A Warren Wilson Colledge student intern worked with us this year, for the 4th consecutive season, monitoring monarch populations in the Veterans park Waystation and entering data in the National Monarch Larva Monitoring Project database.

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:

3/14/2022

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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2022 Monarch Proc.pdf

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Black Mountain Primary

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

Buncombe County Schools, Patchwork Meadows

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? 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.

0.02

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

0.05

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

SEP 29, 2022 In an effort to help save the Monarch Butterflies, Black Mountain Primary is building a new garden specific to the insects' needs. Students, teachers, and community members have been working together in front of the school planting a variety of flowers that the butterflies are attracted to. The school also has its very own butterfly house. Caterpillars are kept there as they go through the different stages to transform into a butterfly. Students have the opportunity to observe the process as it happens. This is just a small piece of what the school is doing to help build up the butterfly population. “This experience is great for the students to be a part of,” said second grade teacher Paula Schlenk. “The kids are learning about the ways they can take care of the butterflies since they are on the endangered species list.” Students are eager to see the development of the insects in the butterfly house, and excited to get their hands dirty. “Everyday they cannot wait to go to the butterfly house and see what is happening,” said Ms. Schlenk. “Soon we will get to see the butterflies flying around the house. Once that happens we will mark the butterflies with a tracking device to observe their daily behaviors.” This experience would not be possible without the help of community members. Emily Sampson, with Patchwork Meadows, has dedicated hours coming to the school to teach the students about the insects. Patchwork Meadows graciously donated the plants for the garden. “The pollinator garden will eventually have 15 different species of plants growing,” Ms. Sampson explained. “Each plant attracts the monarch butterflies along with other insects to the area. This is just a tiny piece of what we all can do to help the ecosystem.”

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

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)

Monarch Waystations in the back 9 holes of the Black Mountain Disk Golf Course at Veterans Park. The address is 10 Veterans Park Dr, Black Mountain, NC 28711. All of the gardens combined are 10 acres

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

Asheville GreenWorks Pollination Celebration.

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.

10

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