Town of Black Mountain

Black Mountain, NC

Mayor C. Michael Sobol

Pledge Summary

The Town of Black Mountain, located in Western North Carolina, is along a major fall migration route for the monarch butterfly on their journey south across the Blue Ridge Mountains towards Mexico. We have thousands of monarch butterflies pass through our town and public parks during last week of September and/or 1st week of October annually. In 2015, the Town created our 1st Monarch Waystation in a 10 acre field in our Veterans Park that is right along the migration route to make an inviting place for monarchs to stop to fuel up with nectar from native aster and goldenrod on their journey south. This field has over 500 common milkweed plants where monarchs also lay eggs April through June each spring, and is filled with purple clover, which is one of their favorite sources of nectar locally. Since 2015, the Town has expanded to four (4) Monarch Waystations across the Town located at Veterans Park (est. 2015), Lake Tomahawk (est. 2019), Black Mountain-Tyson Library (est. 2021), and Black Mountain Primary School (est. 2022). Additionally, the Town of Black Mountain provides and maintains pollinator-friendly habitat gardens throughout town including Town Square (our public green space the middle of downtown), Veterans Park, Black Mountain Primary School, Lake Tomahawk and Town Hall. The Town works closely in partnership with the Black Mountain Beautification Committee (BMBC) who assists in maintaining these public gardens. Milkweed plants can also be found within these gardens. The BMBC also maintains gardens in collaboration with several businesses that feature pollinator-friendly plants. Additionally, residents are encouraged to plant pollinator-friendly gardens at their homes, and we have a number of residents who have Certified Pollinator Habitats on their property, thus furthering essential habitats for the monarch butterfly, and other pollinators. Beginning in May 2025, the Black Mountain Town Council adopted a resolution supporting and encouraging residents to participate in the "No Mow May" initiative which encourages letting yards grow during the month of May to allow wildflowers, grasses and other flowering plants to grow freely and providing a valuable habitat and food for pollinators during the spring/early summer. Finally, the Mayor has issued a Monarch Pledge for Black Mountain in the form of a proclamation and encourages our residents to support the monarch by planting monarch-friendly habitats and milkweed plants. The Town is in full support of these efforts and the monarch protection.

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

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

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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.).

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." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

5

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.

0.2

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.

We added a small pollinator planting within the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden. We also had a large natural increase in the number of milkweed plants popping up throughout our largest monarch waystation fields/meadows that was actually due to less mowing of the field related to Hurricane Helene recovery.

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

No specific programs targeting these communities.

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

Continuing to provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators while providing public space for people to connect with nature and observe them, and continuing public education and awareness of Black Mountain's location along the migration routes of monarchs annually.

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?

Continuing to provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators while providing public space for people to connect with nature and observe them.

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

More time/work hours have been dedicated to pollinator gardens. We have still been dealing with Hurricane Helene recovery in one of our Monarch Waystation areas. Storm debris removal damaged one of our meadows, but it has mostly recovered.

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:

April 23, 2025

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025 Mayors Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.)

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

MonarchWaystationSign_2025_2SM.jpg

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

R-25-15_Resolution for No Mow May 2025_2025.04.14_signed.pdf

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

Signage placed at all pollinator gardens throughout Black Mountain (see attachment), social media pushes via Town of Black Mountain official page,

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www.fb.com/townofblackmountain, Monarch Waystations of Black Mountain Facebook group- https://www.facebook.com/groups/195921917425575/, Town of Black Mountain website pages: https://www.townofblackmountain.org/2869/Monarch-Waystations, https://www.townofblackmountain.org/2871/Pollinator-GardensMeadow-Locations, https://www.townofblackmountain.org/2872/Educational-Programs. -Waystation workdays held several times a year, pollinator garden workdays held several times a year, Monarch peak migration viewing tours/walking tours held during month of October. -Each June, Garden Coordinator, Emily Sampson leads a tour of the 4 Black Mountain Monarch Waystations as part of Bee City USAs pollination celebration during Pollinator Week. The tour focuses on meadow ecology, meadow creation and maintenance and on learning to identify the native plants and pollinators present in each of the gardens. -The peak weeks of fall monarch migration in our Valley are typically during the last 2 weeks of September and the first 2 weeks of October, we hold educational programs at the South Veterans Park waystation and lead caravan tours to other known sites in the Swannanoa Valley and along the Blue Ridge Parkway to view the monarch migration.

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

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

We maintain the 4 Monarch Waystation locations at South Veterans Park, 99 White Pine Dr., Lake Tomahawk Park, 401 Laurel Circle Dr., Black Mountain Library, 105 N. Dougherty St. and Black Mountain Primary School, 301 E State St. https://www.townofblackmountain.org/2871/Pollinator-GardensMeadow-Locations

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

To the Primary School Garden, we added 2 LP flats (72 plants total) of Aster Ericoides (snow flurry) to replace a ground cover that we removed. In a makeover to a pollinator garden area at the Dr. Wilson community garden we added Early goldenrod, Tall garden phlox, Joe Pye Weed, Narrow leaf mountain mint, Blue False indigo, and wild quinine. 1 flat of each (6 to 18 plants of each).

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.

Presentation to Town of Black Mountain 10-13-25_AVL Butterfly Trail.pdf

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

Bee City USA-AVL Butterfly Trail Brochures back.jpg

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

Bee City USA-AVL Butterfly Trail Brochures front.jpg

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

Bee City USA- Asheville has partnered with the Town on their new "AVL butterfly trail" throughout the region. Black Mountain Town Council agreed to host a stop along this butterfly trail where the monarch butterfly will be highlighted. This project entails installation of larger than life size butterfly artwork and educational signage to bring awareness to native butterflies in the region. Black Mountain was chosen for the monarch because of our monarch waystation efforts and being along the migration path. This display will be installed in 2026. Attached is a copy of the initiative of the entire butterfly trail through Bee City USA- Asheville. On next year's report, we will be able to provide photos of our new installation! The website about this trail is: https://beecityasheville.org/avl-butterfly-trail. Also, a brochure has been published to educate about the trail. Photos attached.

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

Ongoing partnership with Bee City USA- Asheville and with the new regional AVL butterfly trail, hosting a site for a trail stop and display of a larger than life monarch butterfly artwork and educational signage.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

MonarchWaystationSign_2025_2SM.jpg

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

Butterfly Sign.jpg

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

Waystation at BML.jpg

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

Monarch Waystation Signage at Lake Tomahawk park.jpg

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

Monarch Waystation Signage.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

6

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

We have Monarch Waystation signage at each site and a “ghost monarch” artwork at the Primary school site. Current signs include the reason for the garden and explaining what its significance is. The new waystation signage (attached) should be installed by the end of 2025. Further, see information regrading the new AVL Butterfly Trail where Black Mountain will be a featured stop to see a larger than life monarch butterfly artwork with educational signage about the importance of monarchs. This display will be placed near the monarch waystation/garden at Veterans Park/Community Garden at 99 White Pine Dr.

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.

Monarch Waystation at BM Primary Sch.JPG

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

Pollinator Garden at LT.JPG

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

Milkweed Plant 2.jpg

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

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Waystation at BML.jpg

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

Waystation VP.png

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

Presentation to Town of Black Mountain 10-13-25_AVL Butterfly Trail.pdf

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

8 total: -Monarch Waystation of Black Mountain -Dr. John Wilson Community Garden -Black Mountain Primary School -Black Mountain Public Library -Bee City USA -Asheville Area Meadow Tours -Swannanoa Valley Wild -Black Mountain Beautification Committee

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

-Monarch Waystations of Black Mountain is a community group created in 2018 that has weekly volunteer opportunities to volunteer in 1 of 4 Monarch Waystation spaces; https://www.facebook.com/groups/195921917425575/ . -A newly formed chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, Swannanoa Wild has been coordinating with town Monarch Conservation efforts at the Community Garden at the Lake Tomahawk Dam. -At the Black Mountain Primary School, where one of the Monarch Waystations is located, we notify teachers/principal whenever there are large numbers of butterflies/caterpillars in the garden areas so that they can bring students out to see them. -We planted a small pollinator garden planting with the Dr. Wilson Community garden and participated in a fundraising event where the monarch waystation was featured. -The Black Mountain Library staff and patrons also have connection to the Waystation on their site, advertising workdays there and staff sometimes come out to engage or volunteer. -We received approval from Black Mountain Town Council and Buncombe County Schools to have 2 Butterfly Trail Stops with Bee City USA . The “Asheville Butterfly Trail” this is a new program that installs a human sized butterfly artwork of a particular species relevant to the area and includes signage with species/conservation information. https://beecityasheville.org/avl-butterfly-trail. Photos of the proposed artwork/educational signage for the Black Mountain butterfly (monarch!) artwork is attached. -Annually, the Waystation Program participates in a local garden tours. In July 2025 both the Monarch Waystation at Veterans Park and the Primary school garden were part of a tour. - Other photos of established, designated waystations & gardens that are presently placed in Town-owned public parks/spaces are attached. -We are working with Public Works and the Disc golf community to modify our mowing plan to meet everyone’s needs as one of the Monarch Waystation sites is also part of a disc golf course.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

We are working with the Town of Black Mountain Public Works and the disc golf community to modify our mowing plan to meet everyone's needs as one of the Monarch Waystation sites is also part of a disc golf course.

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 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.

Current Town Land Use Ordinances reference the planting of native shrubs & trees with development projects and/or not disturbing native plants that currently exist on property (or at least documenting these and adding to them with the development projects). Town Land Use Ordinance texts links of references include the following:
https://library.municode.com/nc/black_mountain/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXALAUSCO_CH8LADEENRE_S8.3LARE_8.3.5PLSTPLINST;
https://library.municode.com/nc/black_mountain/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXALAUSCO_CH8LADEENRE_S8.1ERPRSLPROR_8.1.2AP;
https://library.municode.com/nc/black_mountain/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXALAUSCO_CH4ZORE_S4.7ZOREDI_4.7.11TNTRNEDEMAPL;
https://library.municode.com/nc/black_mountain/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_APXALAUSCO_CH7SPUSPE_S7.5SPUSCOSU_7.5.4PEGO

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

We are navigating the needs of disc golfers who have a renewed focus on this area after losing an adjacent part of their course to flooding from Hurricane Helene. We expect the new plan to be worked out in 2026 so that the needs of disc golfers can be met while pollinators/monarchs and lightning bugs are still protected in the space.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

BMBC Centennial Park Gardens.jpg

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

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BMBC Entry Sign beds.jpg

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

BMBC Entry Sign Hwy 70 Garden work.jpg

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

BMBC TOBM Entry Sign Garden.jpg

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

BMBC Town Square Gardens Summer State St.jpg

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

BMBC working at Town Square Gardens.jpg

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

The Black Mountain Beautification Committee maintains and plants pollinator-friendly flowers in various areas of Town including rights-of-way and along roadsides within Town, with some guidance by the Community Garden staff. This includes at welcome entry signs, along the main streets through downtown, within rights-of-way of town streets at various locations. This expands throughout the areas within the city limits. Some photos attached showing gardens the Committee maintains along roadsides in town and at entry signs along highways.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

250

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.5 to 1 acre cumulative

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These areas are maintained at least every few weeks/monthly throughout the year (exception of winter months) the committee has volunteers assigned to specific areas who

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are responsible for each. Spring/Summer plantings are usually conducted in May after frost threat is gone.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

We are partnering with Bee City USA-Asheville and most recently on the AVL Butterfly Trail. Also part of Swannanoa Valley Wild, a chapter of the NC Wildlife Federation: https://www.facebook.com/swannanoavalleywild/

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Partnering with Bee City USA-Asheville for the AVL Butterfly Trail project with installation expected in early 2026: https://beecityasheville.org/avl-butterfly-trail

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

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

R-25-15_Resolution for No Mow May 2025_2025.04.14_signed.pdf

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

BMB Seed Library Photo.jpg

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

Plantings at DJWCG.jpg

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

Cooperation and ongoing partnership with Dr. John Wilson Community Garden through the Town of Black Mountain, and participating in their community garden events & workdays. Collaborating with the Black Mountain Beautification Committee on plantings they do throughout the Town in public spaces, ensuring native plants are utilized and offering guidance on types of plantings, empowering them to help educate the public about pollinators and monarch migration through the area. The Town Council in 2025 adopted a

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resolution recognizing May as "No Mow May" to encourage native plants to grow and to encourage pollinators. A copy of this resolution is attached, as well as a writeup on the Town's website. Geared more toward bees, this initiative also encourages planting of nectar-producing plants that bees and other wildlife are attracted to. Black Mountain Library offers a seed lending library with Black Mountain Blooms Committee. https://www.bmtlibraryfriends.org/seed-library. As part of the Friends of the Black Mountain Library non-profit group, https://www.bmtlibraryfriends.org/, the Black Mountain Blooms Seed Lending Library offers a selection of free seeds along with resources to grow your garden, educational Sowing Circle programs, and community connections. The Seed Library, located towards the back of the library, is typically stocked with seeds from early February through October. Complementary resources including soil test kits, seed catalogs and helpful handouts can also be found at the Seed Library. You can take seeds each season, and if you grow seeds, you can donate them for others to check out. We encourage participants to grow what they're interested in and have fun. Our motto is Grow, Learn & Save.

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)

99 White Pine Drive. The 10 acre field containing milkweed and clover along with several diverse pollinator meadow areas totaling 1+ acre is located along a migration corridor where large numbers of monarchs stop to nectar on fall migration. Each of the other 3 monarch waystations at The Black Mountain Primary School, The Black Mountain Library and at Lake Tomahawk, in the Town of Black Mountain, could also be considered demonstration gardens.

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

Emily Sampson is a part-time employee of Town of Black Mountain Recreation and Parks. She works along with the Leonora Stefanile, Community Garden Manager, and sometimes coordinates with Black Mountain Public Works in efforts related to monarch conservation.

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.

1

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

0.5 - 1 acre

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 Town currently does not have any efforts to remove invasive species as part of the Monarch Waystation program, but there is an effort at the woods/creek edge below the community garden, where one of our waystations is located, to replace an area previously filled with invasives with native shrubbery. The Town's Community Garden Manager is working with a local volunteer group called Swannanoa Valley Wild on this. In addition, there are many other areas in our parks with invasives, such as Burning bush, that it would be wonderful to focus on removing and replanting with native plantings in the future.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

R-24-28 Resolution to use Alternatives to Glyphosate Herbicides on Town Properties_approved 08.12.2024.pdf

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

Town of Black Mountain Town Council, Town of Black Mountain Public Works and Recreation & Parks Departments.

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

Continuing

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.

Ongoing during the active growing seasons.

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

The Town Council, on their own accord, in 2024, passed a resolution requesting the Town departments use alternatives to the application of glyphosate-based herbicides and other herbicides & pesticides deemed carcinogenic on town-owned and town-managed

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properties. This includes the areas where a majority of the pollinator and monarch waystations are located. The Public Works department has been using alternatives to glyphosate-based chemicals.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

100

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed Seeds

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

Dr. John Wilson Community Garden (via Town's Community Garden Manager employee & volunteers)' Black Mountain Recreation Parks staff' Emily Sampson, Town Staff; Patchwork Meadows

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

The Town does not have a designated milkweed seed distribution program specifically, but the Town's Community Garden Manager with the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden has distributed milkweed seeds to volunteers and patrons throughout the season and at our annual seed giveaway the coincides with the Town's Halloween event the Town holds every year at town square. We probably distributed about 500 seeds seeds this year to at least 100-150 people in the community. Additionally, Town staff member Emily Sampson provided this update on milkweed seeds from the Town's waystations: "I collected around 5000 milkweed seeds from the waystation this fall. I have used about half of them to seed other meadow projects in the Asheville area, but not specifically in Black Mountain. I have the rest of the seeds in cold storage. I often give them away inside of a wildflower seed mix at events held at the waystation also, but I have no specific plans yet. Last fall I did not collect any seed (hurricane related reasons) so I did not have any seed to give away this year."

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

BMB Seed Library Photo.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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Unknown as this was a seed swap and each contains various quantities. This event was hosted by the Friends of the Black Mountain Library and they also have a Seed Lending Library at the Public Library. The Town supports this ongoing effort via the Dr. John Wilson Community Garden and Monarch Waystation staff/volunteers. https://www.bmtlibraryfriends.org/seed-library. Note: The Town does not host this, but has a large presence as a partner from our Dr. John Wilson Community Garden staff. The Black Mountain Blooms Seed Lending Library offers a selection of free seeds along with resources to grow your garden, educational Sowing Circle programs, and community connections. The Seed Library, located towards the back of the Black Mountain Library, is typically stocked with seeds from early February through October. Complementary resources including soil test kits, seed catalogs and helpful handouts can also be found at the Seed Library. You can take seeds each season, and if you grow seeds, you can donate them for others to check out. We encourage participants to grow what they're interested in and have fun. Our motto is Grow, Learn & Save.

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

40

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

Friends of the Black Mountain Library, Black Mountain Public Library, Appalachian Creek Nursery, Asheville Parks and Recreation, BB Barnes Garden Center, Dr. John Wilson Community Garden, Hudson Valley Seed Company, Select Seeds, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Sow True Seed, The Chas. C. Hard Seed Co., The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Thyme in the Garden, Town Hardware

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