City of Manassas

Manassas, VA

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

Pledge Summary

Manassas is an urban habitat of 45,000 people located 30 miles southwest of Washington, DC. The city is 10 square miles and has 230 acres of parkland and open space. In 2020 the City adopted a goal that Manassas would be a sustainable and resilient city that values the environment, encourages access to nature, and provides a safe, pleasant, and healthy community for residents of all ages, abilities and incomes. A strategy to achieving that goal includes, "Supporting the conservation of local and regional biodiversity by promoting the protection and enhancement of native plant communities and pollinator and wildlife habitats while managing invasive plant and animal species."

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2026	5/4/2026	
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2025	3/13/2025	Signatories
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2024	3/29/2024	Signatories
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2023	2/15/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2022	3/16/2022	Signatories
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2021	3/22/2021	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.).

500

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.)

Youth-150 Adult-350

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.

Historic Sites, Parks, Medians

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

We create awareness through City Social Media, written corespondance

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

The City of Manassas strives to be pollinator friendly. We are a Bee City affliate and a Tree City USA affiliate (31 years). The City works with committes and garden clubs to beautify our city.

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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?

Our annual Tree City and Bee City celebrations have attracted many of our citizens. Our use of social media and written news letters to our citizens play a big role. Our existing plantings of pollinator friendly plants also call attention to our cause. Garden clubs, committees and volunteers assist us in our endeavors also. We will expand our call by use of media to reach out to more people to use more pollinator and butterfly friendly plants.

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

This is our first year to join the Monarch Pledge. Through the years this community, the City Government and its employees, committees and affiliates have strived to make this city an ecologically friendly area. We have an extensive budget to provide and take care of trees, shrubs and flowering plants to provide ample attractions for pollinators and butterflies. Our strict adherance to an IPM program assures the use of very few pesticides. As we continue forward we will be planting much more plants such as milkweed and other natives to attract more Monarch Butterflies.

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:

May 10, 2121

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

City of Manassas Bee City Affiliate

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Bee City USA Resolution 5-10-21 Signed.pdf

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).

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

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Tree City.jpg

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

Bee City USA Resolution 5-10-21 Signed.pdf

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

The City of Manassas Beautification Committee

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

City of Manassas Beautification/ Horticulture Department

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.

Meadow Plants 2021.pdf

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

Meadow Plants 2021 A.pdf

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

Plants were installed by City of Manassas Beautification/Horticulture Department

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

1030

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Plants were installed in meadow area behind the Liberia House Historical Site by City Crews

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.

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

Flowers-Liberia.jpg

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

IMG_5445.JPG

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

IMG_5531.JPG

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.

thumbnail_IMG_5371.jpg

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

thumbnail_IMG_5449.jpg

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

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

The City of Manassas Beautification Committee, the GFWC Women's Club of Manassas, the Centennial Garden Club, the Manassas Garden Club and the Buds and Roses Garden Club.

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

These groups have provided ideas, volunteers and money to help our causes. Volunteers have been a great help to plant and maintain our gardens at the Liberia Mansion Historic site.

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Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

The City of Manassas Beautification Committee

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.

The Committee has discussed how to proceed with implementation. The plant material used on City Properties is mainly decided by the City Arborist. Locations of plantings and installations are also mainly decided on by the City Arborist (myself). During my tenure we have planted many perennial plantings throughout the City. We have installed them at building signs, parks and medians. We have begun to create meadow space where possible at parks and historic sites. This process is a continuing project.

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