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 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.
- 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

- 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
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

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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.).

1000

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.)

350 youth and 650 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.

0.25

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.

Right of ways, roadsides, parks

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

We have provided information on our website and having information sheets at various community functions.

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

Having become a designated Bee City, the City of Manassas has incorporated the Mayor's Monarch Pledge into our endeavors to provide plants and protection for pollinators and the Monarch Butterfly.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Information research via the internet, support of our city government and committees and our citizens. To aid in our endeavors we need to find and make use of more avenues of communication.

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

We were able to get a good deal of information out during our Bee City Festival last June to our citizens. It was a day of informational programs, activities and demonstrations to promote pollinators and Monarch Butterflies. We have incorporated more Monarch friendly plants into our plantings throughout the city.

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:

June 13, 2022

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

Pollinators Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Bee City 2022 Proclamation - Pollinators Month (2).docx

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.

No mow signs.jpg

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

In coordination with Public Works Maintenance Department and Parks and Recreation department, we identified several areas that could be left unmowed and in a natural state.

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these areas are in parks and roadway/ Right of Way areas. Community involvement consists of volunteers to help keep these areas in a trash free state.

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

The volunteer groups meet periodically throughout the year. These areas are left unmowed and have been planted with native flowering plants.

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?

The Beautification Committee, Mastergardeners, Grden Clubs.

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

50

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Plants were installed by the Beautification Committee and mastergardeners under a donated windmill at a historic property in the city.

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?

None, this is an in house process.

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.

We are currently following this plan in our Public Works Department and are working with other departments to achieve this goal. We are also working on a written directive to make this our policy. Hopefully this will happen this year.

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