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 2024

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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2023	2/15/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger	2022	3/16/2022	Signatories

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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.).

1500

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.)

200

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.

Parks, City Buildings, Medians

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

Our plantings are in public areas for all to enjoy. These plantings are throughout the city. The Beautification Committee in the City, along with Master Gardeners are always trying to educate all citizens in regards to native plant use in the landscape via programs and social media, Through activity such as Bee City/Monarch Festivals held annually.

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

Our motivation was and still is to make our city a pollinator and Monarch friendly area and to educate our citizens on the benefits of native plant species and the sustenance relating to the monarch and other pollinators. We strive to provide new and enhanced existing areas to create enticing areas for monarchs and other 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

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

Internet, Social Media, Master Gardeners, Nursery Managers, and local University IPM weekly reports.

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

New plantings designed with pollinators and monarchs in mind, trying to use native plants as much as possible. We use nursery advice, research, and trial/error methods. Because we want to limit pesticide use at the minimum, we incorporate plant material with little or no pest problems.

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 2024

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

Pollinator's Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Bee City 2024 Proclamation.pdf

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.

Beautification Volunteer work.jpg

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

Museum Native planting 2.jpg

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

No mow liberia 2.jpg

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

no mow area dean.jpg

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

Annaburg Windmill Bed.jpg

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

City Hall 7.jpg

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

monarch butterfly.jpg

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

1. Beautification Committee 2. Master Gardeners 3.Volunteer Groups 4.City Staff

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

Beautification and master gardeners helped develop and maintain multiple native plantings throughout the city. Volunteer's have helped plant and maintain our park landscapes. We have received donations to aid our efforts in these areas.

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.

Bee City Advert 2.jpg

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

seed lib 2.jpg

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

beecityadvert5.jpg

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

beecityadvert4.jpg

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

Native plants sold at Bee Festival, and we also have our new Seed Library.

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

2000

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

Beautification Committee and City Bee Festival Committee

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

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

Rose Hill Cemetery - 10218A Foster Dr, Manassas, VA 20110 Manassas Museum - Historic District, 9101 Prince William St, Manassas, VA 20110 Nokesville Road/Nokesville Bridge ROW Wellington ROW adjacent to 9970 Wellington Road apartments Manassas City Train Depot - 9106 Prince William St. Manassas, City Hall - 9027 Center St.

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

325

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.

.25

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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The spring consists of fertilization and weed control, watering and weeding throughout the season. Late fall is cutback, clean up and mulch.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.

IMG_2497.JPG

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

IMG_2492.JPG

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

monarch2.jpg

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

monarch.jpg

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

monarch4.jpg

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

1500

What was the date of your festival?

June 22 2024

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

Beautification Committee, Manassas Bee Festival Committee, Master Gardeners, Bull Run Rotary Club, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

The event was held at the historical Liberia house and grounds on June 22, 2024 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. It was a combination of visual education experience, the event had educational speakers, plant sales, plant and pollinator related sales, exhibits, educational literature and demonstrations. The event was well advertised and open to the public. The city staff assembled local parking and shuttle services for all participants.

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