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 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.
- 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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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
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.)

300

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.

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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. We've designated an area of land to gradually expand our pollinator beds each year.

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?

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

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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

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.

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

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 2025

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

Pollinator's Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation Pollinators Month.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.

City Hall 2.jpg

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

monarch butterfly.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.

No mow liberia 2.jpg

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

pollinator sign.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 landscaping's. We also received donations to aid our efforts in these areas.

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Create a community art project to enhance and promote 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.

expansion bed 1.jpg

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

Beautification Committee

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

12

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

The beautification designed a new expandable garden area within the city of Manassas. The committee hand picked the plant material and helped design the layout, to include planting.

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.

bee city advert 4.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 3.jpg

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

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Native planting Depot.jpg

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

Museum Native planting.jpg

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

expansion bed 1.jpg

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

expansion bed 2.jpg

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

Beautification Committee

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

267

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Beautification Committee had identified a central location for native plant expansion and designed a pollinator friendly garden located between our local High school and middle school common grounds.

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.

posters.jpg

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

Beautification Volunteer work.jpg

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

educational.jpg

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

litter pickup.jpg

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

City of Manassas Beautification Committee, Master Gardeners, 4-H Youth Club, Keep Manassas Beautiful

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

The volunteer groups help with all things related to pollinator and natives plant gardens. The committee's advise and help put together landscape plans for future pollinator gardens, while the volunteer groups help plant, maintain these areas. Multiple litter campaigns are completed each year by these groups to keep our vegetated areas clean and habitable for our wild life.

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.

vendorsetup.jpg

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

seed lib 2.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 which is stocked yearly by the beautification committee.

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?

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Beautification Committee, Manassas Bee Festival Committee

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.

Bee Festival 4.jpg

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

Bee Festival 5.jpg

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

Bee Festival 1.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)

2000

What was the date of your festival?

June 21 2025

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

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 City of Manassas hosts a Bee/Pollinator festival every year at the Historic Liberia House. The event is coordinated by volunteers and city staff. Pollinator friendly vendors and educators set up tents and booths to inform our citizen's of native plant material and eco friendly landscaping advice.

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