City of Peekskill

Peekskill, NY

Mayor Andre Rainey

Pledge Summary

The City of Peekskill is located approximately 45 minutes from New York City in the Hudson Valley, with a diverse population of 20,000. The City hosts several community gardens, and has 8 municipal parks within the 4 square miles of the City. The City of Peekskill is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayor's Pledge, and looks forward to engaging residents in building pollinator habitats in the City.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.)
- 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

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Vivian McKenzie	2026	2/25/2026	
Mayor Vivian McKenzie	2025	4/28/2025	Signatories
Mayor Vivian McKenzie	2022	12/15/2021	
Mayor Andre Rainey	2021	3/29/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

40

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.)

10

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.

3

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.

Community parks, yards, community gardens

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

Unfortunately, this is an area we lacked in this year. We hope to do more next year.

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

Community residents were actively interested and wanted to move this forward.

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?

access to seeds and plants

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

Our group of dedicated volunteers were very busy and created wonderful habitates for the butterflies this summer.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Milkweed location.jpg

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

40

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

Signs are in various locations around the Riverfront and Charles Point Parks where milkwee has been planted.

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

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

We solicited assistance from our local Garden Club to get their assistance with plantings in the spring at locations in the parks. They also helped spread the word on what home owners could do in their own spaces.

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.

10

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.

Park Maintenance workers did what they were able to do to remove any invasive vines as they did mowing, tree and bush trimming in the parks over the summer.

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 Butterflies Partnership 2.jpg

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

Monarch Butterflies Partnership.jpg

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

Community Members Peekskill Garden Club Peekskill Childrens Library Peekskill Public Works Dept Peekskill Recreation Dept Parks Advisory Board Conservation Advisory Council

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

The City of Peekskill Recreation and Public Works Departments were involved with choosing appropriate locations, getting information out to the public, and maintenance of locations choosen. Pictures uploaded show: Community Organizer, Parks Advisory Board, Peekskill Common Council, and Conservation Advisory Council members.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Milkweed location.jpg

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

Pollinated Pathways pg.2.pdf

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)

Peekskill Riverfront Green - Peekskill Landing This area is along the Hudson River and a major park in the City. The garden was placed in a very visible area and had signage regarding the program.

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

Peekskill Garden Club, and Public Works and Recreation Dept.'s

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.

.10

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.

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

1 - the Peekskill Garden Club

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

the Peekskill Garden Club was contacted and gave assistance with planting and distribution of information to the community.

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.)

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

Pollinated Pathway pg1.pdf

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

Pollinated Pathways pg.2.pdf

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

Pollinated Pathways pg3.pdf

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

Pollinated Pathways pg4pdf.pdf

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

Monarch Butterly Press Release.pdf

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

Attached is a press release that we did as well as an article in a local magazine about our program. We posted all these and more undates on our social media pages and City of Peekskill website.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

We have engaged the Peekskill Garden Club, Parks Advisory Board and Conservation Advisory Council.

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

In progress

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

We have begun to include this in our master plans, but have a long way to go before we are finished.

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