City of Peekskill

Peekskill, NY

Mayor Vivian McKenzie

Pledge Summary

Peekskill is a city of 25,000 located in Westchester County, New York, along the Hudson River. The City is bordered by beautiful Blue Mountain Park to the South and Bear Mountain to the North as well as several local parks and the Peekskill Regeneration Farm. Mayor McKenzie of Peekskill, NY has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with her signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and looks forward to engaging residents as Peekskill fulfills the actions of this pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

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.).

30

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

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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.

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.

Community farm, middle school, elementary school, roadsides, residential community, and residential home gardens.

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

The Peekskill Regeneration Farm is a community farm that is located near a low-income community and a community of color. The farm hosts many programs and events that draw from this community and the wider, diverse City of Peekskill. Also, both schools serve the Peekskill community at large.

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

The community is interested in supporting pollinators and converting lawns into gardens that will support the ecosystem, including Monarchs.

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?

More resources are always needed in a city such as Peekskill. Money for educational signage and materials, and planting materials (compost, soil, containers, planting markers, border markers) would help us to expand the program. Also, funding for marketing the initiative to private property owners would yield additional acreage.

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

Over the past year, monarch butterfly conservation in Peekskill has grown into a community-wide effort. Residents have actively participated by planting milkweed in their own yards and displaying educational signage, extending habitat beyond public spaces and into neighborhoods throughout the city. This work has been highly collaborative,

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bringing together City staff, volunteers, and residents around a shared commitment to supporting monarch populations and strengthening local pollinator habitat.

Selected Action Items

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

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

image.jpeg

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

Milkweed has been planted within sidewalk strips throughout the city, including along roadsides and public rights-of-way.

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

24

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.

1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Volunteers are committed to maintenance of the public gardens, and homeowners engaged in the program are committed to maintain their own gardens.

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.

image-2.jpeg

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

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The Center for Economic and Environmental Partnership, Inc., The Conservation Advisory Council for Peekskill Peekskill Regeneration Farm

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

20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Peekskill Regeneration Farm - 800 Main Street, milkweed was added to the existing garden, which is located at the north end of the farm close to the school building Woodside Elementary School - 612 Depew Street, milkweed was added to the gardens around the back of the school Peekskill Middle School - 212 Ringgold Street, milkweed was added to the gardens around the back of the school

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

image-3.jpeg

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

3

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

The information on the signs provides an overview of the importance of milkweed to the monarch butterfly and native plants more broadly to wildlife. It also provides examples of common pollinator plants found near Peekskill, NY, with a QR code that brings the user to a Linktree, where they can find more information on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Peekskill's specific pledge actions and resolution, as well as an interactive map of where folks can find the pollinator gardens with signage near them. The link to the pollinator garden sign being displayed in residential gardens can be found here: https://www.mysafetysign.com/pollinator-friendly-garden-lawn-sign-and-stake-kit/sku-k2-6394. Below are the signs being displayed at the Peekskill Middle School, Peekskill Regeneration Farm, and the Woodside Elementary School.

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