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 2026

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.).

45

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.)

15

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, and residential home gardens were expanded or created.

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. Additionally, most of our educational materials and advertising around monarch butterflies are created in both English and Spanish, to ensure we're also reaching Peekskill's Hispanic population.

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

Our community was motivated by a shared commitment to protecting pollinators and creating a healthier ecosystem for future generations. Peekskill continues this work by encouraging the planting of native species through informal Conservation Advisory Council-led programming like neighbor seed swaps, as well as hosting citizen science and educational opportunities, such as Monarch tagging, that engages residents in hands-on conservation efforts.

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?

Additional resources would significantly support the continued establishment and expansion of pollinator gardens throughout Peekskill. Securing funding for educational signage and essential planting materials, including plant plugs, hand tools, and potting soil, represents a high-priority need. Furthermore, allocating resources toward outreach and marketing efforts targeting private property owners could encourage broader participation in the initiative.

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

Not dissimilar to the previous year, monarch butterfly conservation has remained an important environmental initiative in Peekskill, with continued participation from across the community. Local residents, with coordination from the Conservation Advisory Council, have played an important role in these efforts, creating more welcoming spaces for monarchs by adding milkweed to their properties and helping raise awareness through educational displays. The initiative has also continued to foster connections between municipal staff, volunteers, and residents, demonstrating how collective community action can contribute to protecting pollinators.

Selected Action Items

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

Monarch Tagging Event Flyer.png

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

Monarch Tagging Event Photo-2.jpg

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

Monarch Tagging Event Photo.jpg

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

12

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

CAC Members Woodside Elementary School

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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On August 22nd, the Conservation Advisory Council hosted a monarch butterfly tagging event at the Woodside School Pollinator Garden. Participants tagged and photographed monarch butterflies, providing an opportunity to learn about monarch migration patterns and contribute valuable observational data to ongoing phenological research. Below is the link to the tagging kits that were utilized at the event.
https://shop.monarchwatch.org/Monarch-Watch-Tagging-Kit/121239

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?

Peekskill Regeneration Farm, Girl Scout Troop #1397, Cub Scout Pack #144, & Peekskill Garden Club

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

150

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of Peekskill's staff and community organizations, particularly the Conservation Advisory Council, have played a significant role in promoting and expanding residential pollinator gardens through seed exchanges and educational programming. To date, more than 13 residential gardens and 3 non-residential gardens have been established throughout the City, with continued interest in further expansion. A map of Peekskill's residential and non-residential pollinator gardens can be seen here:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f7cedb129f894acfb3beddf047bb154b

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1.png

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

2.png

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

3

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

The information on the signs displayed at the Peekskill Middle School, Peekskill Regeneration Farm, and the Woodside Elementary School provide 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.

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