# City of Yonkers

Yonkers, NY

Mayor Mike Spano

## Pledge Summary

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

### Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Mike Spano | 2022 | 2/25/2022 | |
| Mayor Mike Spano | 2021 | 3/29/2021 | Signatories |

## Action Items

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**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.).**

337800

**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.)**

Don't have this data available

**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.**

Rights-of-way, parks, and public spaces

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

Public awareness efforts and plantings

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

As Yonkers has experienced significant population growth and new development, the City is committed to preserving and protecting green space and pollinator habitat. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge helps to raise public awareness of the importance of our efforts and encourage participation from our communities.

**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?**

Public outreach toolkits are helpful in developing messaging to reach our communities. County and State Transportation departments maintain many of the rights-of-way in New York, especially the green spaces surrounding highway ramps which often support large areas of milkweed, but which are often mowed down by crews. These agencies should

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engaged in preserving monarch habitat at these locations. Recommendations for legislative measures to help protect and expand monarch habitat would be helpful.

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

The City of Yonkers received good press and public response to the 9 new monarch habitat preservation sites established citywide. The City plans to establish additional preservation sites in 2022 and is exploring additional legislative action to protect monarch habitat.

## Selected Action Items

### 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.**

### 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:**

April 20, 2021

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

Monarch Butterfly Awareness Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

Mayors Monarch Pledge Proc.pdf

### 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.**

Monarch Preserve Announcement - Rumsey.jpg

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

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Rumsey Rd @ Park Hill Avenue (high visibility median in the Park Hill section of Yonkers) Central Park Avenue near I-87 entrance (high visibility median along a main transportation corridor) Yonkers Parks Department Headquarters (City property) Lincoln Park (small roadside City park along South Broadway @ Mclean Ave) Cook Field (City park) JFK Marina Park (City park and marina) Rory O'Moore Field (City park) Conor Park (roadside park featuring a 9/11 memorial along Mclean Avenue @ Central Park Avenue) Old Croton Aqueduct @ Seymour Ave

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

100

**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.**

These 9 new roadside planting sites encompass half an acre.

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

Regular weekly maintenance provided by the Yonkers Parks Department

## 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.)

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

FB Monarch Preservation.pdf

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

The City of Yonkers and Mayor Mike Spano have used social media, including facebook, twitter, instagram, and tic toc, as well as the City's email blast to communicate with the public and encourage participation in monarch protection.

## Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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City of Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation

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

in progress

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

A directive has been issued to the Parks Commissioner to identify additional areas at City parks and properties where additional milkweed and nectar plants may be planted and protected.

## Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.**

The City is exploring legislative action to require pollinator plantings at large residential and commercial developments.

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