City of Decatur

Decatur, GA

Mayor Patti Garrett

Pledge Summary

Decatur GA is an urban city in the Atlanta metro region with a population of around 27,000 people in 4.5 sq mi. There are several community gardens in Decatur, including two on city-owned property. We are a Tree City USA and a Tree City of the World. Decatur was recognized as the first BeeCity in Georgia in July 2016 and has established two bee habitat gardens. Signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge is another opportunity for the city to commit to additional conservation efforts and is supported by the city's Active Living Board and the Environmental Sustainability Board. We look forward to continuing our work to educate the community about strategies to conserve monarchs and to taking steps to establish additional natural habitats for monarch butterflies.

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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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- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Tony Powers	2025	3/5/2025	Signatories
Mayor Patti Garrett	2024	4/1/2024	Signatories
Mayor Patti Garrett	2023	3/31/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Patti Garrett	2022	3/21/2022	Signatories
Mayor Patti Garrett	2021	3/30/2021	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.).

474

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.)

169 Youth, 305 Adults

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.

26

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.

residences, community gardens, common areas of developments

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

trying to encourage planting pollinator plants in parks in areas of low income housing and education programs in the schools

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

to find more ways to save our pollinators and keep people engaged

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?

The proclaimation got the word out to citizens when it was read by our Mayor in a commission meeting. Having online info sheets were could put on our website would be great.

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

we participate in the Xerces Society and the Bee City program. We set up educaton classes through our Beecatur volunteers a group that does presentations at our schools.

Selected Action Items

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

Please describe your effort in completing this 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:

4/5/21

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

Monarch Butterfly Day 4/24/21

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarchs pledge 2021.pdf

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

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

private pollinator garden 715 Avery.pdf

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

Final Pollinator Garden plan Willow Lane.pdf

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

Willow Lane soil prep.JPG

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

1.jpg

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

5.JPG

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

willow lane.pdf

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

worked with landscape architect to incorporate pollinator plants The plan was the beginning plan we have since added milk weed, Paw Paw and several more pollinator plants. We also added shallow water bowls around the plants and flat stone for resting. no mowing is done in the planted areas.

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.

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)

What was the date of your festival?

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

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).

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.

Beecatur programs update 2021.pdf

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

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Beecatur Wylde Center Woodlands Gardens

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

native plant sales, education classes, habitat establishment

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

bidsheet for invasive removal at Legacy Park.pdf

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

77 acres

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.

1. Manual & Mechanical Removal- Many NNIS can be removed via handpulling (manual) and/or the use of hand tools (mechanical) to extract them from the soil. While this can be quite effective, it generally will require repeated actions in the same management area and is never a “one and done” scenario. This method can sometimes be used in combination with other methods such as chemical treatment or native plantings. Manual control is the best action when utilizing volunteer help, as little or no prior experience or specialized training is necessary. It is important to note, however, that manual control can sometimes result in extensive soil disturbance which can encourage germination of NNIS seeds and could result in erosion or siltation issues. For these reasons, manual control is not always the most appropriate action. Digging large holes in the ground to remove mature Chinese privet, for instance, can be counterproductive in the amount of time and man-power it takes and the resulting soil disturbance and large holes created which are an open invitation for new (and sometimes worse) NNIS to take root and flourish. If chemical treatment is deemed necessary, a herbicide with the highest effectiveness and the lowest environmental impact should be considered. For large woody NNIS (shrubs, trees and large vines) over 3/4” diameter, cutting and stump treating is the preferred control action. Currently, use of a glyphosatebased herbicide without added surfactant (marketed as “Rodeo” or “Aquamaster”) appears to be the preferred chemical treatment for cut and treat. This product appears to have the lowest toxicity with the highest confidence rating and to be less harmful environmentally than some commonly-available products based on glyphosate.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you

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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.

From Beecatur website link to Monarch waystations.pdf

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

Copy of Monarch waystation website where Decatur citizens can learn how and register as a waystation.pdf

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

beecatur website and facebook page that has a link to Monarch waystation registration and education.

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