City of Decatur

Decatur, GA

Mayor Patti Garrett

Pledge Summary

We were the first Bee city in the state of Georgia and have created 3 pollinator gardens in our small 4 square mile city. We also participated in No Mow Month this March to help our pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.
- 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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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 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.).

614

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.)

314 youth 300 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.

0.1

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.

Park center space

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

free milkweed seed give aways in those areas

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 our citizens 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?

Grants for pollinator plantings and education classes in low income areas would be helpful.

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

people really enjoy our free festival and over 100 No Mow March signs set up in yards in our City!

Selected Action Items

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

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

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? 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.

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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

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?

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

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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

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.

pollinator pledge Beecatur.pdf

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

No Mow March implemented 3/1/23

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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.

FW_ November 2021-2027 Legacy Park Restoration.pdf

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

22

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.

We are thrilled to inform you that Trees Atlanta's Forest Restoration department has received a 5 year contract to remove and mitigate the invasive plant species throughout the park. Currently the forests and fields of Legacy Park contain a variety of non-native and invasive species such as kudzu, English ivy, Bradford pear, and wisteria. Native Pollinator plants will be part of the restoration process

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

none it is not in our ordiances

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

Milkweed is not listed as an invasive

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

NA

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

NA

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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.

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

2023 pollinator festival.pdf

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

2023 Polinator festival flyer.JPG

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)

300

What was the date of your festival?

06/24/23

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

Beecatur, Monarchs across Georgia, Wylde Center, Trees Atlanta, Georgia Native Plant Society, Decatur Cares About Climatee

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).

It was held on our city town square, we had postings on our media sites and signs and banners before the event all over town.

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?

Beecatur

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

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20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Gifts that grow was implemented which allows people to donate money and a pollinator plant is planed in our gardens

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:

6/20/23

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation-for-National-Pollinator-Week-Bee-City-USA-template-2023 (1).pdf

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.

NO MOW MARCH COMES TO DECATUR 2023 rev 2.docx

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

No Mow Month 18x12 Sign v1PH (003).jpg

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

beecatur Flair Forest Garden Club Wylde Center

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

2/10/23 In person meeting with the Grounds crew supervisor to halt weedeating and only mow near sidewalks and sports fields until after March March

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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.

Beecatur Agnes Scott Master Gardeners

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

groups weeded Pollinator gardens, planted pollinator plants on campus and in our gardens

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

2023 pollinator festival.pdf

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100 free milkweed seed packs and there were 3 native plant vendors sales unknown

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

300

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Beecatur Monarchs across Georgia, Wylde Center, Trees Atlanta, Georgia Native Plant Society, Decatur Cares About Climatee

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

pollinator sign.JPG

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

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2

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

Pollinator habitat signs from Xerces Society

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.

Historic Legacy Park newly planted Pollinator Garden 1st blooms.JPG

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)

New Demonstrator Pollinator Garden at the front entrance established this year as an example to visitors at the park. All plants will be left to overwinter this year

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

Legacy Park foundation

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.

0.1

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

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

pollinator pledge Beecatur.pdf

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

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Flair Forest Garden Club -Pollinator presentation given urged to plant native milkweed and pollinator nectar producing plants North Hall High School -Directed Studies Program Zoom presentation: Pollinator Pathways included instruction to students on the importance of native milkweed and pollinator plants in the pathways and to leave them unmowed.

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