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 2024

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 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

- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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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- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.).

950

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.)

120

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.

residences, schools, planters, community gardens, new developments common spaces

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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 and info give aways in those areas

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

As always 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 are needed.

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

The pollinator festival has continued to grow sparking more Pollinator pledges to be signed.

Selected Action Items

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:

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

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)

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

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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 one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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.

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.

Proclamation-for-National-Pollinator-Week-Bee-City-USA-template-2024 (1) (002).docx

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

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2024 Pollinator festival photos.pdf

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)

500

What was the date of your festival?

06/22/24

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).

The event was held in our Downtown square, advertised in local paper Decaturish and on facebook. Yard signs placed at major intersections thruought the city and at or parks. festival site is also aright next to a marta train stop mqking it very convenient for accessablity.

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.

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

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please

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include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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 Month Sign.pdf

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

RE_ Signage- No Mow Month signs at parks.pdf

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

NO MOW MARCH COMES TO DECATUR! 2024.pdf

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

5

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

all our Gardens particiapted, emails were sent to all and no mow signs were placed in the gardens and our parks

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

Pollinator garden with Milkweed planted and left alone at the entrance to the Main building at legacy park 500 S Columbia Dr Decatur GA 30030

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

Beecatur and master gardeners

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.

0.4

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.

Legacy Park Restoration and invasives removal 5 year plan 2021 to 2026.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.

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hand removal of invasives by digging roots with pick axes and shovels and chopping plants with machettes and weed eaters. then safely appling brush killer to stumps of larger invasives.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

willow lane.pdf

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

168

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

Take The Decatur Pollinator Pledge! I pledge to maintain my piece of our ecosystem as sustainably as possible by: • Learning about and including more native plants in my landscaping • Not buying plants that have been treated with systemic neonicotinoid pesticides • Reducing or eliminating home pesticide and herbicide use • Foregoing mosquito spraying / misting

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Beecatur

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 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.

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due to our Governor signing a pesticide law we can not ban the use of pesticides in Georgia so we provide the pollinator pledge option to allow citizens to sign up to support not using pesticides. so there is not a target date we do this yearly.

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