City of Takoma Park

Takoma Park, MD

Mayor Talisha Searcy

Pledge Summary

The City of Takoma Park is a municipality of approximately 17,000 residents in Montgomery County, Maryland. Takoma Park is bordered by Washington, D.C. on the south and Prince George's County on the north and east. Takoma Park is densely populated but feels comfortable due to its hills and large trees. Takoma Park is known as "Azalea City" because of the many flowering azalea bushes that brighten the area in the spring. Mayor Kate Stewart is committed to helping Monarchs and other pollinators thrive in our Safe Grow community.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Talisha Searcy	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor Talisha Searcy	2025	3/26/2025	
Mayor Talisha Searcy	2022	3/23/2022	
Mayor Kate Stewart	2021	3/30/2021	

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.).

0

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.)

unknown. Our spaces are open to the public 24/7

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.

rights of way, parks, public building landscapes

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

we aren't

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

acknowledge our commitment to ecological horticulture

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?

prepared and editable signage/educational material

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

NA

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Selected Action Items

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

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

5

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.

manual removal or chemical, depending on the species and site.

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:

missed

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

missed

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

CITY LOGO SIMPLIFIED - 300dpi.png

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

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

Piney Branch Triangle, Carroll & Columbia, Old Town

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

2000

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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.

.1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Cut back in March, watered for first year.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

none

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

it it the current policy since September 2021, will continue

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

park/garden renovations are 70%+ native species, and include at least 1 milkweed species

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