City of Greenbelt

Greenbelt, MD

Mayor Colin Byrd

Pledge Summary

The City of Greenbelt is located in the State of Maryland north east of Washington DC. Greenbelt has a population of 23,000. Mayor Colin Byrd has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with his signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

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.
- 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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.
- 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.

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.

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- 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.
- 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 Emmett Jordan	2025	1/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Emmett Jordan	2023	3/30/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Emmett Jordan	2022	4/22/2022	Signatories
Mayor Colin Byrd	2021	3/31/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

100

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.)

Youth: 40 Adults: 60

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.

2

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.

Community gardens, parks, and in horticulture beds.

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

Working with non-profits, such as CHEARS, to reach out to underserved communities and groups on environmental issues. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge has provided impetus to

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complete more projects.

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

The City of Greenbelt is fully committed to the preservation of pollinators and pollinator habitat.

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?

As a Bee City USA Affiliate, the Xerces Society has been invaluable as a resource.

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

We were certified as a Bee City USA Affiliate this past year and will continue to create pollinator habitat and work with the community to increase awareness around the issues the monarch butterfly and other pollinators are facing.

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:

6/14/2021

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

National Pollinator Week Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation-for-National-Pollinator-Week-Greenbelt-2021rev.pdf

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.

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The City of Greenbelt engaged with the local community garden group, the Greenbelt Community Garden Club, to encourage the use of native plants, including milkweed, in their garden plots. At a farmer's market during National Pollinator Week, members of the City's Pollinator Circle tabled the event and offered free swamp milkweed seedlings. https://www.instagram.com/p/CQoTIYOh3NS/

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.

SustainableLandCarePolicyJ.pdf

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

The Department of Public Works has set the standard for mowing practices on City property based on the guidelines of the City's Sustainable Land Care Policy.

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

The department of Public Works is in constant communication with the Green ACES (Advisory Committee for Environment and Sustainability)/Green Team and the sub-circles therein to produce ecologically sound and sensitive policies.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

The City of Greenbelt has opened dialogue with Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) primarily between the City's Environmental Coordinator and GHI's Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Program Manager. They are currently working to identify project sites that overlap between City and GHI land.

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

Preliminary discussions have been held and agreed to look into potential sites to create native meadow habitats on shared land.

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

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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)

The garden is located at Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

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

Multiple volunteer events were held by the Department of Public Works to maintain and improve the pollinator garden. Many groups attended including scouts groups, local schools such as Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Dora Kennedy French Immersion School, and local community members.

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.

0.25

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

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

SustainableLandCarePolicyJ.pdf

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

This effort was completed with staff from the Department of Public Works and members of the Green ACES/Green Team.

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

Complete

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.

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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.

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

150

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.

The Department of Public Works provides a robust volunteer based "Weed Warriors" invasive species removal program to manually remove invasive species from the City's public lands. This includes Buddy Attick Park, Schrom Hills Park, Indian Creek Wetlands Park, and other City owned property.

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?

N/A

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.

N/A

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

This action is in progress and being discussed in advisory committees.

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.

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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

This Action is in being discussed in advisory committees. Target date is TBD.

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

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

This years event was canceled due to COVID concerns. Looking towards a Native Plant sale in May 2022.

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

0

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

The City of Greenbelt's Department of Public Works has worked with volunteer groups and advisory committees to expand the native plants and pollinator habitats in Greenbelt.

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

300

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Native plants were added in various parts of the City, including in the native pollinator garden, the firefly sanctuary, and in the horticulture beds throughout town. Volunteers assisted with many of the plantings with Department of Public Works staff.

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.

Native Plant List.pdf

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

The City of Greenbelt maintains a native plant resource guide for community members to reference for their own homes and gardens. Found here: https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/public-works/green-steps-sustainability/plant-native. The Department of Public Works also holds numerous native planting volunteer events where community members can go to learn all about native plants and their benefits, how to properly plant them, and proper care. DPW also provides workshops and tabling events about native plants and native pollinators. Two workshops were held via zoom and in conjunction with a local church's Green Team.

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