City of Greenbelt

Greenbelt, MD

Mayor Emmett Jordan

Pledge Summary

The City of Greenbelt is located in Northern Prince George's County, Maryland with a population of roughly 24,000. As a Bee City USA affiliate, Greenbelt is committed to the conservation of our native pollinators and spreading awareness about the challenges they face. This includes the iconic monarch butterfly. By creating habitat gardens, yearly milkweed giveaways, and promoting ecologically conscious gardening practices, Greenbelt will continue to support the monarch and pollinators of all persuasions. This pledge stands as a testament to that commitment.

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.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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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.).

75

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.)

25

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.

0.5

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.

Elementary schools, resident's yards, and in conservation areas throughout the City.

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 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. We have additional commitments as a Bee City USA affiliate and regularly work to maintain pollinator habitat in areas such as our Firefly Sanctuary.

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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. More pollinator based grant opportunities would be helpful to meet our goals. Most grants focus on tree plantings and not on native perennial/meadow planting. By creating more funding opportunities for these kinds of projects it would be easier to assess and cultivate more turf grass areas into pollinator habitat.

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

We have continued to support pollinator health and conservation as a Bee City USA affiliate and will continue to make improvements each year.

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:

6/20/2023

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

Proclamation for National Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation-for-National-Pollinator-Week-Greenbelt-2023.pdf

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.

Insect Hotel_SchromThreeSisters.jpg

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

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The City of Greenbelt works closely with the Greenbelt Community Garden Club and the CHEARS Three Sisters Gardens in town. Staff have gone to the garden sites to provide insight on how to create more pollinator friendly habitats in conjunction with vegetables and the benefits of doing so. A girl scout also completed her silver award project by installing a new insect hotel near the Schrom Hills Three Sisters Community Garden.

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.

Pollinator Week 2023.jpg

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

The Department of Public Works has been working hard to provide native nectar plants and milkweeds to residence. Every year the department will provide native plugs including butterfly weed and swamp milkweed at the City's Farmers Market during National Pollinator Week. The City has also participated in No Mow Month during the month of April for the past two years to boost early spring pollinator habitat. Currently the Pollinator Circle, a volunteer advisory group is working on further mowing practice recommendations to present to council and the Department of Public Works.

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

This is ongoing with the Department of Public Works. The staff liaison for the pollinator circle is a DPW employee who maintains communications between the advisory group and the department.

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.

3

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 City of Greenbelt engages with community volunteers to remove invasive species throughout the city. The Department of Public Works averages 10-15 invasive species removal events per year and often accompanies them with native plant installations. The

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most recent event saw 10 volunteers work to remove over 6 cubic yards of invasive bush honeysuckle and install over 20 native understory shrub and tree species.

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

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

City of Greenbelt Pollinator Circle

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

The circle are looking to present recommendations on mowing practices in early 2024.

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.

Pollinator Week 2023.jpg

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

300

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

500

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

By partnering with the Greenbelt Farmers Market, City of Greenbelt staff and members of the Greenbelt Pollinator Circle handed out free milkweed plugs and other native perennial plugs to the farmers market patrons and community members to plant in their yards in celebration of National Pollinator Week.

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

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

the stretch of medians along Southway heading toward Crescent Road, the maintained beds in the Roosevelt Center,

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

150

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.

0.25

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These planted areas will be watered during harsh periods of drought and will be split as necessary in the spring.

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.

Inv_658_from_Hill_House_Farm__Nursery_4416 Copy.pdf

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

Invoice_AmericanNatives.pdf

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

GES Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

Schrom Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

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City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works, City of Greenbelt Pollinator Circle, Local Girl Scout Troops

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

400

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works and the City's Pollinator Circle have worked hard to engage community members to include more native plants, including milkweed, and have installed native plants in various conservation settings all across the city. Including providing plants for Greenbelt Elementary Schools new pollinator garden and working with the local girl scout troops to install new native pollinator habitat on City property, adjacent to the Schrom Hills Three Sisters Garden.

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