City of St. Augustine

St. Augustine, FL

Mayor Tracy Upchurch

Pledge Summary

Founded in 1565, St. Augustine is the oldest continuously occupied settlement of European and African-American origin in the United States. Forty-two years before the English colonized Jamestown and fifty-five years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the Spanish established at St. Augustine this nation's first enduring settlement.

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 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.

Systems Change

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Nancy Sikes- Kline	2025	3/25/2025	Signatories
Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline	2024	3/4/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline	2023	3/30/2023	Signatories
Mayor Tracy Upchurch	2022	4/28/2022	Signatories
Mayor Tracy Upchurch	2021	4/16/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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

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

The City is working to build a healthy, sustainable and wildlife-friendly community that brings the benefits of nature to all corners of our community

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?

Online resources have been helpful as well as native plant nurseries

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

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.

Shared public spaces and city property

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

Gardens were planted in community areas for all to enjoy

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.)

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50 youth and 50 adults

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

Staff embraced the project and were excited to see the pollinators. Discussions have started for planting more milkweed in the spring, including a proposed native plant demonstration garden with the local Audubon chapter.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

City staff, including Streets & Grounds, Utilities, Public Works and Environmental Programs/Sustainability held several meetings to discuss planting milkweed and native nectar plants. The planting program was initiated in June 2021, and will continue into future years.

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

City staff from Streets & Grounds, Public Works, Utilities and Environmental Programs

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.

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

Milkwed at WWTP.jpg

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

Milkweed at WWTP (2).jpg

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

Milkweed at WWTP (3).jpg

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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.

June 22, 2021

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

Action was completed with installation of a milkweed garden at the City's wastewater treatment plant. The City's Streets & Grounds Manager considers the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties where possible.

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

Wastewater treatment plant staff

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

Complete

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)

City Hall, 75 King St and Gibbs Park, 29°53'33.1"N 81°18'38.2"W

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

Streets & Grounds staff

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

Milkweed at City Hall (2).jpg

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

Milkweed at City Hall (3).jpg

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

Milkweed at City Hall (1).jpg

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.

0.06

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:

May 10, 2021

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

Garden for Wildlife Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

COSA Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2021.pdf

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.

Facebook Monarch Post.jpg

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

Instagram Post.jpg

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

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The local newspaper ran an article on April 21, 2021 announcing the City's monarch butterfly pledge and the purpose of this program. The City issued a proclamation at the Commission meeting and subsequently ran a month-long social media campaign in May 2021 for Garden for Wildlife Month, which included monarch butterflies and planting native species.

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