Town of Morrisville

Morrisville, NC

Mayor TJ Cawley

Pledge Summary

Morrisville is located adjacent to North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park – a national technology hub, hosting over 300 companies and 50,000 workers. The Town of Morrisville demonstrated support for sustainability in 2021 by approving the development of a Sustainability Master Plan, as well as the addition of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator position. In the 2-year span, the Town has implemented two renewable energy projects, integrated a building automation system at it's public safety building, and recognized National Pollinator Week in support of pollinators and monarch butterflies, specifically.

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor TJ Cawley	2026	2/26/2026	
Mayor TJ Cawley	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor TJ Cawley	2024	1/9/2024	Signatories
Mayor TJ Cawley	2023	12/15/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor TJ Cawley	2022	12/29/2021	Signatories

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Mayor TJ Cawley	2021	4/19/2021	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.).

300

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.)

200 adults, 100 youth

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.

0.05

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.

Morrisville Educational Garden, resident gardens (through seed giveaway), Cedar Fork District Park natural area

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

Aside from distributing seeds to a diverse set of community members, we have not targeted this audience specifically yet.

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

We understand the importance to our environment, of advocating for pollinators in 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?

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A kit of social media posts, event ideas that folks can edit and use quickly would be of value. Can NWF partner with communities to perform outreach and education efforts?

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

At our Education Garden, we were able to witness the metamorphosis with children and adults alike.

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:

o Issued 6/14/22 Recognizing National Pollinator Week (June 20-26)-Town Council

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

National Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-222-0_National_Pollinator_Proclamation.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.

33826-Green Day 2022 Banner REV3.pdf

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

o Conducted an Earth Day event on April 30th in conjunction with the Western Wake Farmers Market. This Included native plant and seed giveaways, Education Garden demonstrations, composting information and rain barrel information. One of the kids' activities was a seed paper interactive experience conducted by local youth group called Dedicated to Our Community of NC.

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

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

The Education Garden of the Town of Morrisville collaborated with NC State University's Cooperative Extension to give away vegetable and flower seeds within our Morrisville community. It is estimated that at least 500 packets were distributed over the course of several months.

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

400

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

Morrisville Education Garden, NC State University Cooperative Extension

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

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

There were several host plants planted at our Education Garden. We are working toward adding host plants at the Community Garden as well.

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

12

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Volunteers of the Education Garden including both adults and children were able to witness the monarch metamorphosis cycle. The Ed. Garden lead was able to provide education and create awareness of suitable host plants, how to tend to them and promote planting their own at home.

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?

Education Garden, Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee, Planning and Public Works departments

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

The text amendment detailed below is expected to be confirmed by April 1, 2023 by Town leadership.

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

o The Town is currently considering a text amendment to the Administrative Manual as part of the Unified Development Ordinance to mandate a 70% minimum of native plants for all Town projects. o The Public Works, Sustainability and Stormwater departments are currently working toward planting a pollinator garden at each of the Town’s 7 parks in FY24.

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