Town of Morrisville

Morrisville, NC

Mayor TJ Cawley

Pledge Summary

The Town of Morrisville is located in the heart of the Triangle with access to top universities, the Research Triangle Park, and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, it is a key destination for academia, business and industry. The Town is actively working toward initiatives that support tree canopy, pollinator habitat development, and native plant efforts.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- 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

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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Mayor TJ Cawley	2023	12/15/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor TJ Cawley	2022	12/29/2021	Signatories
Mayor TJ Cawley	2021	4/19/2021	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.

.25

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

The Town is committed to increasing pollinator habitats in our community. This includes community engagement through events, education, and awareness building.

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?

Access to education for community volunteers.

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.).

125

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, Town-owned property in parks and near facilities.

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

The Town gives away seed packets at events throughout the year where access to all community members is available.

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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30

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

Pro-pollinator efforts include the addition of an apiary at our Fire Station. We intend to plant natives surrounding this fenced off area to further support pollinators and monarchs specifically. One of the hives is designed with monarchs/pupae to provide awareness of our Monarch Pledge commitment.

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:

June 11, 2024

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

National Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2024-201-0_Proclamation_Recognizing_National_Pollinator_Week.pdf

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.

The Town's Public Works, Sustainability, Stormwater, and Capital Projects teams have been working closely together to identify and coordinate native plant gardens on Town property with a minimum of 70% native plant materials goal.

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

NA

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The Town has worked extensively with a local natives only nursery for guidance and support on planting design/coordination efforts.

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

Education Garden, Community Garden, Mellow Marsh Farms

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 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.

In 2023, the Town mandated a goal of 70% native plant materials minimum for all Town-owned projects. Please see section 'h' on the Public Works Standards document attached.

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

Public-Works-Recommended-Standards-for-Amenities-Building-Fixtures-and-Sustainability (2).pdf

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

Design/build firms working with the Town, Capital Projects team, Sustainability Task Force members

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

Complete

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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)

The Town planted a 70% native species/pollinator friendly garden at a trailhead across from Town Hall.

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

Town staff.

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.

.25

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

Incomplete. Could use additional guidelines here such as best practices to provide policy recommendations to Public Works, including how to message any visual changes with community members.

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

Roadside habitat Boon or Bane for Pollinating Insects.pdf

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.

NA

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

Public Works has added this topic to an executive team meeting by the end of this calendar year, 2024. The team recently researched the viability of adding pollinator plants to medians (abstract attached). It was advised to not plant pollinator plants in medians due to high mortality rates. The abstract, however, did provide valuable information on roadside plantings that connect with habitat on adjacent lands are beneficial to pollinators. Mowing practice guidelines were also shared and we intend to integrate the recommendations with contractors.

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

NA

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