Town of Morrisville

Morrisville, NC

Mayor TJ Cawley

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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

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

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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
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.)

100

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.

.15

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.

Education garden, community garden, Town facility gardens including public parks.

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

The Town applied for grant funding through our local utility to add biodiversity to 3 parks in Town. One of those is in a historically black community. The gardens will be planted by summer of 2026.

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

We are interested in promoting pro-pollinator habitats throughout our community. A large part of that is education. We held a native plant fair this year with several education elements surrounding pollinators and Monarchs. We are leading by example with the idea that our residents will also add pollinator-friendly plants to their yards.

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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?

The examples you provide on mowing best practices and re-wording of ordinances was something we integrated into our policies.

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

We do several seed giveaways throughout the year and have partnered w/the local library to start a seed library. For the biodiversity project listed above, we plan to include signage to further promote / educate on pollinators and Monarchs specifically.

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.

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

We actively work with our Public Works and Stormwater teams to advocate for more pollinator gardens and native plant inclusions. We confirmed that the contractor mowing many of our ROWs and other property, do indeed have a flushing bar and follow mowing best practices.

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

See above. We also actively engage with our Capital Projects team to ensure the 70% minimum native plant materials requirement is being met for all Town-owned projects.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

40

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias incarnata

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

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Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee, Morrisville Community Library, Morrisville Education Garden

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

The partners listed above have started a seed library at our local library which includes milkweed varieties.

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

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

mcp-native-bed.jpg

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)

Morrisville Community Park, 1520 Morrisville Parkway, Morrisville, NC 27560

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

The Public Works dept. has completed the installation of a 100% Native Landscape Education Garden at Morrisville Community Park. With the assistance of local native plant nursery, Deep Roots Natives, the team was able to source over 70 varieties of native perennial flowers, shrubs, and trees. The team was supported by the Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee (MESC), the Morrisville Stewardship Program, and Morrisville's Sustainability Program during the planning and installation of this project.

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.

.08

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?

Education Garden, Morrisville Stewardship Program, Community Garden

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

70

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This is additional detail re: the Morrisville Community Park effort described above.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

We did not add any new signage in 2025.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Public Works Recommended Standards 20260107.pdf

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

The Town's minimum of 70% native plant material verbiage was confusing to some developers. The Public Works/Sustainability staff worked to clarify the language which can be found in the 'Recommended Standards' attached in this action (under Sustainability).

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

Complete

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?

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Sustainability Task Force (includes a member from every Town dept) sub-group for Natural Environment is continuing to work on this action. The Town has reached out to a mowing vendor to confirm best practices inc. flushing bar are used.

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.

Will need 2026 to finalize this action.

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.

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

Will require collaboration with Stormwater, Engineering, and Public Works. Consider change to Recommended Standards document to specifically name milkweed species as part of 70% requirement.

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.

Target date is 12/31/26.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Worked with a developer on a new dog park where we surpassed the 70% minimum native plant materials requirement AND saved 30% more trees than our ordinances require. Encourage developers to consider the addition of a native plant garden with milkweed species (part of developer incentives discussion w/Planning).

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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.

Part 4.jpg

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

Part 3.jpg

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

Part 1.jpg

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

Part 2.jpg

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

The Town provides access to an Education Garden where student volunteers support pollinator habitats throughout the year. Education and training is provided to all interested parties. Pics of the second to last Monarch from our Ed. Garden. There could be more collaboration w/the Community Garden to integrate more milkweed. Ask Morrisville Env. Stormwater Committee to support effort.

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.

Morrisville SpringFest Banner.pdf

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

NA (gave away seeds)

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

250

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

Native Plan Fair included: Make-and-take native plant crafts with Site One Nursery, Triangle Land Conservancy, Leaf and Limb, Trees for the Triangle, Morrisville Stormwater, Bee Downtown and Master Gardener.

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