City of Conway

Conway, SC

Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy

Pledge Summary

Conway, SC has an approximate population of 28,000 people, and sits in the 'Low Country' of South Carolina. One piece of its uniqueness is that it is a quiet, historic community located a mere twelve (12) miles from South Carolina's 'Grand Strand', known for the resort City of Myrtle Beach. Conway has always prided itself in being environmentally responsible. Historically, streets in Conway have been designed around our oldest residents, Live Oak trees. We have been a 'Tree City USA' for over thirty-five years. Conway's Waccamaw Park is natural in that it is an 'untouched' atmosphere. We also are developing biosweles in downtown urban parking (green) infrastructure. Your bringing to our attention the ease with which we might commit to Monarch butterflies remaining a part of the delicate balance of nature also made a decision to 'sign up' very easy.

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy	2021	4/27/2021	

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.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

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

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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.

111.JPG

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

We conducted a Garden Walk Tour with the Chamber of Commerce Business Entrepreneurs. We have Monarch Butterfly specific plants located throughout the Garden. This was a beneficial discussion that raised awareness for the Monarchs.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

June-July 390.JPG

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Hawthorn Road Conway, SC

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

The local Wal-Mart was very generous in donating a wide variety of seed packets that where all planted on this site. The plants all did very well.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

3.01

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

2

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Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

We tilled the entire area, added some satisfactory soil and then planted on June 15, 2021. We applied a fertilizer after the germination process had occurred. We conducted weekly inspections and generated action based on the weekly conditions. We weeded as needed and made efforts to deter deer that was our biggest issues.

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.

June-July 242.JPG

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

The city Arborist conducted three presentations to local garden groups. At each of the public speaking engagements the topic of Monarchs was discussed and future plans where made. The future action plans will take place in the spring. The garden groups are securing the plant material this month. We have also targeted areas that are low income housing and when new sidewalks are being installed we will look at the surrounding area and add a wildflower/pollinator mixture to be planted if its a good fit.

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?

The local garden clubs are eager to be a part of this project. We have several projects within the cities current plans and they have there projects on parcels they have interest in so with this combination it gets more areas involved. We conducted two Public Engagements that monarchs was part of the agenda. One was the Camelia Garden Club and the other was the Ivy Garden Club. They are equally ambitious to implement the efforts to help with this project..

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

They have completed a garden newly planted area at a local church and one is in progress. The city Department Heads for the Street Department and Grounds & Maintenance have been involved with this project and have committed to planting material beneficial for the butterflies.

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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.

This will be a on-going commitment with several components that will need to be implemented in 2022.

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

The garden clubs will be on-going and within the city we have included plant material in future projects. The local garden clubs have several areas that will be getting new plantings in the spring that will be butterfly attractants. The city has planted various areas and will continue to plant with a emphasis on the Monarchs.

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

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

June-July 078.JPG

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

June-July 242.JPG

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

2021 238.JPG

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

We converted the FEMA lots internally within the city, utilizing city staff. With the cooperation of the local garden groups other areas have been and will continue to be designed with butterfly attractant plant material.

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

The FEMA lots have been completed however this will be a on-going endeavor with the Garden Clubs.

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

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below.

Incomplete.

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

The city has hired a outside firm to establish a Master Plan for the Downtown and Riverfront areas. This will be a part of that process. We intend to expand on this project in the future and incorporate the correct plantings where we can.

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