

# City of Salem

Salem, VA

Mayor Renée Ferris Turk

## Pledge Summary

Salem, Virginia is located directly off Interstate 81, Salem is a city in southwest Virginia, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, with a population of approximately 25,335. Salem's delightful downtown area is home to a variety of retail shops, restaurants, breweries, antique shops, a library, gardens, museums, parks, business offices, and backs up to Roanoke College, a liberal arts (Division III) private college. Mayor Renee Ferris Turk has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging city staff and residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the City of Salem in the future.

## 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.

### 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name                           | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mayor Renée Ferris Turk              | 2026         | 4/23/2026   |             |
| Mayor Renée Ferris Turk              | 2025         | 2/19/2025   | Signatories |
| Mayor Renée Ferris Turk              | 2024         | 5/23/2024   | Signatories |
| Mayor Renée Ferris Turk              | 2023         | 3/3/2023    | Signatories |
| Mayor Renée Ferris Turk              | 2022         | 3/23/2022   |             |
| Mayor, City of Salem (VA) Renee TURK | 2021         | 4/29/2021   |             |

## 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 (e.g., 50).**

**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." (Only allow numerical values.)**

**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).**

**Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.**

**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):**

**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)**

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

**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.**

**Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.**

**Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)**

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**