City of Salem

Salem, VA

Mayor Renée Ferris Turk

Pledge Summary

Salem, Virginia is a city in Southwest Virginia with a population of approximately 25,000. The city is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains near the Blue Ridge Parkway. Salem is home to Roanoke College and hosts many athletic events and tournaments at the Moyer Sports Complex. Salem is home to many community gardens. Mayor Turk of Salem, Virginia, has committed to saving the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators with Salem's signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in expanding pollinator habitats throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Renée Ferris Turk	2026	4/23/2026	Signatories
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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u422:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

200

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.)

20

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.

.55

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.

This past winter, while there was snow on the ground, the City Horticulturist overseeded along the greenway and the golf course. None of that has been identifiable as of yet, but some milkweed that was planted at the golf course a few years ago is beginning to become established. The milkweed is growing in small patches and is coming up in various areas at slightly over half an acre. About .25 acres at golf course.

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

Spaces in areas that benefit all communities are being utilized.

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

The Mayor took a personal interest in this cause.

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 Streets Deparment and City Horticulturist.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u422:v1.14.0.49966]

The City Horticulturist is very creative and has spent much time in many areas of the City embracing initiatives to work toward butterfly conservation.

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:

April 23, 2026

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge 2026

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Proclamation 2026.pdf

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?

City Horticulturist and Streets and Maintenance Department

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City Horticulturist has done a lot of research and worked to maintain pollinator gardens in all areas of the City. He has worked with the local schools as well. The City has a stand of milkweed at the Farmer's Market.

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)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u422:v1.14.0.49966]

Continued to overseed and maintain demonstration gardens located at Longwood Park (601 E Main St.) from last year as well as previously planted gardens as reported. This area has a looped paved walkway that surrounds it providing easy access and appreciation of the newly planted native species and insects that forage. A former grassy area that was simply mowed, it now hosts over forty native forbs and grasses including three species of milkweed. We have installed signs with QR codes that feature the monarch as the primary forager, provide an overview of the area, and list all the species of plants.

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

We partnered with Keep VA Beautiful as a grant-donation partner.

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.

.3

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u422:v1.14.0.49966]