# Town of Plains

Plains, GA

Mayor Boze Godwin

## Pledge Summary

Plains, Georgia is a small, rural agricultural community in south Georgia. The Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail was established in 2013 in order to educate and establish habitat for Monarchs and butterflies common in our community. The Mayor of Plains endorses the efforts of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail and supports these conservation efforts as well as your program.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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.

### 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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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### 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 Boze Godwin | 2021 | 1/8/2021 | |

## 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.).**

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.**

1

**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.**

Public spaces, National park service gardens, private gardens and containers and state park

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

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Neighborhood organizations and city council representative . We added 25 pollinator friendly container gardens to low income families with homes in a town subdivision.

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

Increase awareness of the need for habitat for pollinators with a focus on Monarchs

**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?**

None used

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

Over 1500 native milkweed plants were added to private and public gardens

## Selected Action Items

### 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.

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

We work with native plant societies, master gardeners and Garden Clubs of Georgia.

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

We provided literature and programs at meetings

### Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Unused of sold plants . We gave away over 2000 swamp milkweed plants

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

300

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

Local businesses and plant growers

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

**What species were collected or propagated?**

1

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

DeRoode Monarch Monarch Lab

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

Former extension agents, the deRoode Monarch lab and RCBT board members grew swamp milkweed to give away

## 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 Mayors garden is located near City Hall on Main Street

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

The Mayor and City Council

**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.**

.1

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## 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?**

RCBT

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

200

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

We added more plants to existing gardens

## 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.)

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

The city council received updates on progress which was then used to off a special container garden program for low income residents. Articles were also published in regional magazines , local newspaper and the Farmers Market Bullentin.

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

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

Information about the need for milkweed was presented at local garden clubs and also posted on our website.

## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Main Street Plains

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

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RCBT

**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.**

.1

**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)**

1

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

Area at at old warehouses on the outskirts of town

## 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)**

Sewell Road - roadside ditch area next to fields and farm land

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

150

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.**

.2

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

bimonthly during summer

## Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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**How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).**

25

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

RCBT and Friends of Jimmy Carter

**When did this challenge take place?**

Plains subdivision

**What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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.**

.1

**Please describe your challenge and the results.**

25 container gardens were made for residents to promote Monarchs and pollinators

## 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)**

8

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

in progress

## 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?**

RCBT

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

in progress

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

RCBT

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

in progress

## 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?**

RCBT

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

in progress

## Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

**What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.**

1

**Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.**

in progress

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