Town of Garner

Garner, NC

Mayor ken Marshburn

Pledge Summary

Garner is a town of approximately 36,000 people located in Wake County and just seven miles from our Capitol City of Raleigh, NC We have an active and expanding Parks System which includes a passive park at Lake Benson and a nature park in an adjacent location. Our Town has recently acquired additional land in excess of 100 acres which will allow us to increase recreational space and also expand our trails and greenways. We were recently challenged to take the Monarch Pledge by a letter writing campaign from a local elementary school.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Buddy Gupton	2026	3/3/2026	
Mayor Buddy Gupton	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Buddy Gupton	2024	2/12/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Ken Marshburn	2023	3/24/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor ken Marshburn	2022	3/4/2022	

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.).

93

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.)

63 youth and 30 adults

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.

dedicated parkland

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

N/A

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

We want to remind people that even small steps can make a big difference and inspire them to find their own small steps to implement at home.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

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?

We have not reviewed the resources in the Resource Center, but we're going to fix that!

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

We're excited to play a small role in habitat conservation for Monarchs and other pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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)

While we have not planted a demo garden at Town Hall, we do have three prominent pollinator-friendly gardens at White Deer Park. White Deer is a nature park with a focus on educating others about environmental and conservation issues.

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

Green Level High School; general volunteers

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.

.06

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

We were not able to complete this action item.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

N/A

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.

0

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)

0

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

We were only able to complete action items for department-managed sites.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Xerxes Society; National Wildlife Federation

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Maintained Bee City USA and Mayors Monarch Pledge designations; also have Certified Wildlife Habitat

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed

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

The Parks & Nature team at White Deer Park regularly collect milkweed seed pods from the Monarch Waystation garden to plant in other areas within and outside of the park. The team plans to continue this collection of seeds, and propagate to introduce in new gardens and existing areas, like the Low Mow Zones in White Deer Park and Lake Benson Park.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Sensory Garden 1.jpg

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

Low Mow Zones.jpg

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

Raingardens_proof2.jpg

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

7

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

Low Mow Zones: 4 (3 at White Deer Park, 1 at Lake Benson Park) The Town of Garner has set aside three large areas of White Deer Park and Lake Benson Park as “Low Mow Zones.” These zones are left alone to grow wild in order to provide habitats for native pollinators. Leaving this land alone allows for pollinators to build a safe and undisturbed home; leaving seed heads and stems will help our solitary bees have nesting materials. Monarch Waystation: 1 (White Deer Park) This sign marks the certified monarch habitat at White Deer Park. https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/ Sensory Garden: 1 (White Deer Park) This garden celebrates the five senses of hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch. Each section of the garden appeals to an individual sense. We have selected plants that are native to North Carolina, most of them pollinator friendly. The sign describes the importance of native plants to pollinators, the environment and for water conservation. Rain Garden: 1 (White Deer Park) The interpretive sign in the rain garden at White Deer Park describes the importance of native plants to help fight erosion from water runoff and to clean the runoff water. The sign also mentions the benefits of native plants to pollinators, birds, and other native species.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

.03

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.

During two different work sessions, the Parks & Nature team partnered with community partners to clear all invasive plants, including mock strawberry, Japanese stiltgrass, purple deadnettle and other species, from an unused site. This area of White Deer Park became the Sensory Garden, which is filled with native pollinator plants. With new staff changes, there are plans in progress to host larger invasive species removal events throughout the parks.

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

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

Garner Grows Site Plan.pdf

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

Garner Grows Community Garden

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Garner Grows Community Garden group officially opened on June 3 of this year. They have a mix of native nectar and milkweed plants as well as fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

45

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

Science Across NC, NRPA

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

In 2022, the Town of Garner participated in the City Nature Challenge, NC Bioblitz and Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz. For the City Nature Challenge, the Parks & Nature team hosted a guided hike in which the participants took a walk through White Deer Park, taking pictures and learning about whatever wildlife species they came across. For the Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz, the team hosted a virtual/self-led event in which participants could log any observations of pollinators or flowering plants to the online project, while also completing a pollinator BINGO card to earn a prize button.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Multiple programs(6): Insect Investigations, Discovery Day: Insect Adventures, City Nature Challenge Hike, Pollinator Hike, Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz, and Prolific Pollinators (newly launched)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Nature Explorer's Club (Homeschool Group)

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

N/A

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

90 students so far

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

NCSU Entomology Club, Wake County Beekeepers Association

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

0

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

In 2022, the Parks & Nature team launched new and continued many pollinator programs focused on raising awareness for pollinators and pollinator habitats. These programs have not yet built new pollinator habitats, but plans for this are in the works for the future.

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.

Community Garden Grand Opening.png

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

The Town has entered into an agreement with Garner Grows Community Garden to provide space at one of our athletic parks for their garden. They are aware of the role that Monarchs and other pollinators play in the success of their garden. They also work to educate others through events and workshops. The garden's grand opening was held 6/3/23. Their announcement is attached.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u392:v1.14.0.49966]