City of Greenville SC

Greenville, SC

Mayor Knox White

Pledge Summary

The City of Greenville is committed to maintaining and expanding greenspace, tree canopy, and native plants. The priorities of City Council include conservation and sustainability.

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.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor White Knox	2026	2/12/2026	
Mayor Knox White	2025	2/19/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Knox White	2024	3/29/2024	Signatories
Mayor Knox White	2023	1/6/2023	Signatories

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Mayor Knox White	2022	3/7/2022	Signatories

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.).

1064

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.)

Not tracked

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.

2.08

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.

Common areas or parks, zoo

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

The city has developed a Sustainability Plan that includes an educational component and outreach. While the plan of particular action is still being developed, it may include social media, educational workshops, and presentations on sustainability topics in the community, including low-income communities and communities of color.

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

The City of Greenville takes great pride in its parks and recreation system and the natural environment. Providing habitat for pollinators including Monarch butterflies is important to support the natural ecosystem, public and private gardens, and overall environment.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The Guide to Issuing Proclamations for Healthy, Sustainable, Wildlife-Friendly Communities and Monarch Conservation in America's Cities - A Solutions Guide for Municipal Leaders have been helpful resources. It would be helpful to have more case studies/examples for specific action items and a communications hub to talk to other participants that is NOT on Facebook (not particularly accessible if your job does not incorporate social media already)

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

a. The Parks, Recreation, and Tourism department is currently in the beginning stages of the Parks Master planning process now, which may incorporate more complete plans for Monarch and pollinator conservation efforts. b. There were a series of plantings at the newly established Unity Park that provide new pollinator habitat along the river bench and in bioswales within the parking area. c. Greenville’s new comprehensive plan, GVL2040, was adopted in the Spring of 2021. The plan includes ambitious goals for open space acquisition and preservation. Where appropriate, some of these open space areas may be preserved as natural areas or include gardens with habitat for pollinator species. d. The Parks & Grounds Division is currently pursuing a design and hope to begin implementation of two Monarch Waystations in Cleveland Park. We are hopeful that this initiative will be the first of great things to come. e. The Greenville City Zoo intends to design and begin educational programming at their small pollinator garden. There is no estimated start date for that to begin.

Selected Action Items

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Within the Parks department, we are beginning work on a Master Plan that would incorporate efforts to create monarch habitat. It will be a multi-year process.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

N/A

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Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

N/A

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)

N/A

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

0

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.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

N/A

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?

N/A

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

In Progress

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.

N/A

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

In progress. Our Ordinances are in the process of being re-written, which we hope to be complete within the next calendar year.

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)

532

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

1000

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

N/A

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

N/A

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

Complete

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

City ordinances reference this appendix: https://www.greenvillesc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16590/Administrative-Manual-Appendix-E-PDF?bidId= This links to the SC Invasive plant list as our only prohibited list.

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:

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N/A

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

N/A

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

No Proclamation.png

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