City of Greenville SC

Greenville, SC

Mayor Knox White

Pledge Summary

Situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Greenville is the major metropolitan area of the Upstate region of South Carolina with a population of over 70,000. Greenville's reinvigorated downtown serves as the focal point, contributing significantly to the city's rising reputation as one of the best places to live in the United States. The city features more than 400 acres of parkland, including Unity Park, Greenville's newest park featuring state-of-the-art playgrounds, expansive green spaces, pedestrian bridges and walking trails and Falls Park on the Reedy River, featuring impressive natural waterfalls, gardens, nature trails and the Liberty Bridge, a striking pedestrian suspension bridge. Adding to the city's distinctive charm is the Swamp Rabbit Trail, 22-miles of multi-use greenway that traverses along the Reedy River. 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. The City of Greenville is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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).
- 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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- 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 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
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.).

1400

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.)

0

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.

.4

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.

Within various greenspaces and parks throughout the City

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

All of our pollinator habitats are free and open to the public. Two of them are specifically near low-income communities.

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

To bring awareness to the community and help recognize the hard work and dedication of the city employees.

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 most useful resources thus far has just been websites with information. These websites can easily be linked with QR codes for anyone interested in learning more.

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

The City of Greenville works diligently to maintain wildlife habitats, include the Monarch Butterfly. Various partners have been instrumental in creating and maintaining these areas from generous donations.

Selected Action Items

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?

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

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.

10.20.2025 MNI Direct $1516.26.pdf

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

10.28.2025 MNI DIRECT $357.85.pdf

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

10.28.2025 MNI DIRECT $1437.43.pdf

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

Garden clubs, volunteers, and other community members

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

234

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We have multiple pollinator gardens across the city. An expansion of one garden added over 230 plants and doubled it's footprint.

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

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

Plant Giveaways.png

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

1395

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

1395

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

Parks staff attended over 8 events to give away 1,395 trees. These trees were given to the community for planting on their properties.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator Signage.pdf

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

6

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

We have signs at each of our pollinator gardens as well as bee-xing signs and monarch educational signs. https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/index.html#registry https://www.greenvillesc.gov/2543/Pollinator-Gardens

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.

Garden Club Correspondance 2.pdf

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

Garden Club Correspondance 3.pdf

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

Garden Club Correspondance.pdf

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

The City of Greenville works closely with garden clubs to ensure the gardens have a variety of pollinator plants. The attached correspondence are just a few of the recorded conversations with garden club members that specify pollinator plants being installed. These include asters, Salvia Yangi, and Redbeckia Hirti 'Indian Summer'.

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.

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

City NNIS.pdf

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

Volunteer NNIS.png

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

As the Parks Department, we are careful with our pollinator habitats and ensure that these areas are attended to by hand. This is done to preserve any native and pollinating plants.

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

Over 400+ volunteer hours and 1100+ city employee hours were spent removing non-native invasive species of plants which will help protect our pollinator habitats

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.

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

Workshop1.jpg

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

Workshop2.jpg

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

Workshop3.jpg

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

Workshop4.jpg

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

Workshop5.jpg

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

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Friends of the Reedy River, Friends of Legacy Park, North Main Rotary Park Association, Friends of McPherson Park

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

The City of Greenville hosted multiple free workshops this past year to educate and teach valuable skills to participants. The workshop consisted of tours to showcase the biodiversity and management practices of the natural areas around the parks. Participants were able to learn skills that they could use at home to help support native plants, biodiversity, and pollinators.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Pollinator Garden (1).jpg

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

Pollinator Garden (2).jpg

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

Pollinator Garden (3).jpg

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)

We have multiple pollinator gardens located at key points around the City of Greenville. The first being at Cleveland Park, one of the oldest parks in the city and is along the Monarch's migration pattern near the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. UNITY Park is on the other side of the City and is quickly becoming the gathering spot for individuals and organization as well as host a significant pollinator garden

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

Earth Designs, Friends of Cleveland Park, Friends of McPherson Park

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

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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.

2.3

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

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

City NNIS.pdf

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

Volunteer NNIS.png

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

Unknown acreage. Invasive species work occurs all across our City throughout the 449 acres of City maintained Parks.

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.

Over 400 volunteer hours combined with over 1100 city employee hours were dedicated to remove invasive species within the City of Greenville Parks. These invasives were removed by hand to mitigate damages to surrounding plants and trees. Efforts followed the removal of invasive plants to plant native plants and promote natural habitats.

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