# City of Manassas

Manassas, VA

Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger

## Pledge Summary

Manassas is an urban habitat consisting of 45,000 people located 30 miles southwest of Washington, DC. The City is 10 square miles and has 230 acres of parkland and open space. In 2022, the City partnered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to implement the “No Mow Zone” signage in City parks so as to interpret natural areas for pollinators. By reducing mowed areas, the City is creating colorful wildflower fields, supporting pollinators, and controlling soil erosion. The City encourages its citizens to make a difference for the Monarch Butterfly by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat for both the Monarch and other pollinators in locations where people live, work, and play.

## Action Items Committed for 2022

### Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- 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 |
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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger | 2022 | 3/22/2022 |

# 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.).**

**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.)**

**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.**

**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.**

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

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

**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?**

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

# Selected Action Items

## 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.**

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

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## 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.**

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

## Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

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

## Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

**How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).**

**Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).**

## 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)**

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

## 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.

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

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

**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.**

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

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