City of Charlotte

Charlotte, NC

Mayor Vi Lyles

Pledge Summary

The City of Charlotte provides services to more than 860,000 residents. The city's focus areas are Community Safety, Housing and Neighborhood Development, Economic Development, Environment and Transportation & Planning. Charlotte is guided by the following mission: "Charlotte will lead as a global city by continuously improving, protecting, and preserving the environment, its community, and economy, while ensuring equity and resilience - for today's and future generations." In addition, the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2021, states: "Charlotte will protect and enhance its surface water quality, tree canopy, and natural areas with a variety of trees, plantings, green infrastructure, green building practices, and open space at different scales throughout the entire community as a component of sustainable city infrastructure that addresses the threat of climate change." Lastly, in 2018, Charlotte City Council unanimously adopted the Strategic Energy Action Plan, and since then Charlotte has been taking bold action to strive towards a low-carbon, sustainable, resilient and equitable future.

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

- 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.

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
Mayor Rob Harrington	2026	1/13/2026	
Mayor Vi Lyles	2025	1/13/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Vi Lyles	2024	1/4/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Vi Lyles	2023	12/13/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Vi Lyles	2022	4/13/2022	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.).

35

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.)

35 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.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

Our habitat is in shared community spaces, right-of ways, city facilities, medians, and more.

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

Many of our pollinator/butterfly gardens are located in our corridors of opportunity. Read more here: https://charlottenc.gov/corridorsofopportunity/Pages/default.aspx. It is important to maintain wildlife habitat in all parts of the City to improve quality of life for our residents. In one of the corridors, We recently worked with a community near Camp North End to install a pollinator garden (including host species for monarchs) in a median to honor Daryl Gaston who was a beloved citizen and community organizer.

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

The City of Charlotte recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife.

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?

Working with the wildlife federation on pollinator plants through their office. Identifying additional funding for ongoing maintenance would be helpful in reaching our goals long term as well. Also Plant tags to identify the plants, so that people using the spaces can determine the name of each plant even when active programming is not going on.

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

We have received a lot of positive feedback about the pollinator spaces created. Both from the public and other city staff.

Selected Action Items

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).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

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).

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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?

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.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

Master Gardeners Charlottte's Urban Arboretum Trail Butterfly Highway Wildlife Federation

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

Creating Butterfly Highways on the Urban Arboretum Trail

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)

https://treescharlotte.org/get-trees/neighborhoods/yardtrees/

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

TreesCharlotte, which is a public/private nonprofit collaboration to grow, diversify and steward the city’s iconic urban forest.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Butterfly highway signs

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

https://charlottenc.gov/GS/asset/LandscapeManagement/Pages/PollinatorGardens.aspx

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.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful Bee City USA Charlotte Water Other internal staff

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

Planting pollinator gardens
https://charlottenc.gov/GS/asset/LandscapeManagement/Pages/PollinatorGardens.aspx

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)

https://charlottenc.gov/GS/asset/LandscapeManagement/Pages/PollinatorGardens.aspx

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)

Old City Hall (600 East Trade St., Charlotte NC), as well as the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center (601 East Trade St., Charlotte, NC) - https://charlottenc.gov/GS/asset/LandscapeManagement/Pages/PollinatorGardens.aspx

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

Butterfly Highway

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.

.15

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.

45

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]

Charlotte's Tree Canopy Preservation Program (TCPP) seeks to acquire and conserve land within Charlotte with the goal of preserving and protecting one of the Queen City's most important natural resources: its nationally recognized tree canopy. In 2020, the City of Charlotte partnered with the Catawba Lands Conservancy on placing approximately 19 acres under a conservation easement. The parcel is an old farm property owned by the Spears family. Hardwood and riparian areas are made up of American beech, sweetgum, white oak, red oak, red maple, tulip poplar, virginia pine and loblolly pine. The property is located adjacent to multiple tree save parcels, bringing the total contiguous protected area to 45 acres. Invasives that were removed include: Porcelain Berry, Chinese Privet, Autumn Olive, Chinese Wisteria, Japanese Honeysuckle, Mimosa, and Kudzu. Techniques used to remove the invasive plants included cutting and treating stumps, "hack and squirt", and foliar spray. This site will be monitored bi-annually to determine if subsequent treatments will be needed to maintain the site free of invasives.
https://charlottenc.gov/GS/EPM/RealEstate/TCPP/Pages/SpearsFarm.aspx

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:

October 31, 2022

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u246:v1.14.0.49966]