City of Mountain Brook

Mountain Brook, AL

Mayor Stewart Welch

Pledge Summary

Mountain Brook is a city in central Alabama, a picturesque place known for its winding, forested roads and park-like setting; a vision of its original developer Robert Jemison, Jr. and landscape architect Warren H. Manning. Among other "green" initiatives supported by Mayor Welch, he has committed to participate in efforts to save the Monarch Butterfly and support all pollinator habitats by signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. He looks forward to engaging the Mountain Brook community in the city's efforts to bolster the pollinator ecosystems of Alabama.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.

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.

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 Stewart Welch	2024	2/2/2024	Signatories
Mayor Stewart Welch	2023	3/15/2023	Signatories

Action Items

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

1700

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.)

300 youth and 1400 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.

0.01

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.

City Hall, city parks, schools

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

We are in communication with other local cities (who have marginalized populations) to join together in sustainability efforts (especially pollinator habitats).

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

The City of Mountain Brook is a Bee City USA affiliate and is a Certified American Green Zone Alliance city, and the City Coucnil has appointed an Environmental Sustainability Committee, so becoming part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge was a natural extension for us.

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 utilized all kinds of on-line resources from environmental groups. We have appreciated "kits" of helpful advertising images and giveaway ideas from various environmental groups, for special events such as National Pollinator week.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

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

The city is investigating other public areas for increased milkweed installation, and increased pollinator habitat installations throughout the city.

Selected Action Items

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.

City Hall Pollinator Garden summer 2023.jpg

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

IMG_5784.jpg

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

Installation of Native Plant Garden with Educational Information.jpg

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

Pollinator Garden Installation.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)

56 Church Street, Mountain Brook, Al 35213. The city's initial demonstration garden is a pollinator garden at city hall. Along with 25 different native plant species the city planted swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed. We have planted late-blooming aster to support fall migrating monarchs, and we will be planting goldenrod in the coming season. We are in the process of identifying other areas of city property to plant milkweed (along with other native plants).

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor, City Council members, city Parks/Rec and Public Works, and city Environmental Sustainability committee.

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.

0.01

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.

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

City Mountain Brook Sustainability Goals & Framework 2023-2025.pdf

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

MB Proclamation Designating Pollinator Week 2023.jpg

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

Res 2022-203 Bee City.pdf

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

Pollinator Week Proclamation - Mayor - Director Planning & Sustainability and Parks-Rec Director.jpg

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

Mayor, City Council members, Parks/Rec, Public Works, city Environmental Sustainability committee, and local youth scout troops.

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

In progress.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

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

While the city hall pollinator garden is "complete" it is just one small part of the city hall grounds. We are working on changing all plantings around city hall (and on all city properties) to specifically exclude the use of invasive ornamental species that are known to be a hazard to native habitats. We expect our Environmental Sustainability committee to make a formal recommendation to the city council about the use of invasive plants before the spring change-out of pots and in-ground plants at city hall. Also, see our Sustainability Goals & Framework and Proclamations for National Pollinator Week and Bee City USA Affiliation.

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 Hall - Leaving the Leaves under an Oak to Create a Soft Landing.jpg

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

Native Plant Giveaway Event (reduced).JPG

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

Native Plant Giveaway Educational Event Books (reduced).JPG

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

Monarchs on Milkweed at CH.jpg

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

Monarch Waystation Sign (reduced).JPG

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

Monarch on Swamp Milkweed (reduced).JPG

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Monarch Eggs on Swamp Milkweed.jpg

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

Pollinator Garden Installation.jpg

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

Monarch Drinking Station with Monarch.jpg

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

Monarch Caterpillars on Swamp Milkweed.jpg

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

Monarch Caterpillar on Swamp Milkweed Stem.jpg

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

Leafcutter Bee Nibbles from Swamp Milkweed.jpg

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

Installation of Native Plant Garden with Educational Information.jpg

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

Coloring Monarch Face Masks - Educational Event.jpg

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

City Hall Native Plant Garden Summer 2023 (reduced).JPG

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]

Monarch Drinking Station City Hall Garden.jpg

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

Public Works in Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

City departments such as Public Works, Parks/Rec and Sustainability have worked together throughout the year to re-evaluate how the city maintains city hall property, traffic islands, and parks/trails. We have also worked with boy and girls scouts on community projects where native plants have been installed in public parks.

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

These three departments have collaborated on ideas for improving the city habitats with native plants and reduced leaf blowing to boost the overall ecological landscape for biodiversity, which will support monarchs.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u651:v1.14.0.49966]