City Of Mebane

Mebane, NC

Mayor Ed Hooks

Pledge Summary

We are committing to the Save the Monarch effort. We will be planting areas of the city with milkweed and will encourage other groups in the city to join us.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 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 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

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Ed Hooks	2024	3/12/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Ed Hooks	2023	3/28/2023	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.).

200

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.)

25 Youth and 175 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.

.25

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.

Around the Mebane Arts and Community Center, at The Mebane Community Park, and near the Public Works Facility.

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

We haven't started that process yet, but we hope to in the future.

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

With rapidly growing infrastructure, we want to make sure species are supported.

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?

Financial support in our budget has been most helpful. We also appreciate the support from City Council for these efforts. We believe creating NO-MOW spaces are important for

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these species as well.

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

This is only the beginning, we plan to have to have dedicated butterfly gardens at all Mebane Parks along with other areas within the city.

Selected Action Items

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

Consulted with Lanscaping and Special Projects Coordinator in making a plan to create a native prairie at Cate's Farm Park next spring. The current butterfly gardens at the Parks will not be sprayed with pesticide or herbicide.

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

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

We have planted three gardens that are spray free. The large prairie is targeted for completion in Fall 2024.

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.

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Complete

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.

Milkweed was not on a list of noxious plants.

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

N/A

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.

The Parks department has consulted with a local native plant nursery about the best way to move forward with creating our city network of butterfly gardens.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

2

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias incarnata

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

N/A

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

A city employee harvested seeds from their yard for the Parks department to grow. Once we have Asclepias species established at our sites, we plan to hold public see collecting/sharing events.

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

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location.

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

IMG_2936.jpeg

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)

There are 3 gardens currently. 1. At what will soon be the head of a new greenway across from the Public Works compound (Maintained by Public Works), 2. At the Mebane Community Park (Maintained by Parks), 3. At the Mebane Arts and Community Center (Maintained by Parks).

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

Department heads were involved. The Parks Department plans to have a butterfly garden at every city park within the next three years.

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.

.25

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:

April 3rd 2023

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

Month of the Monarch

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation- Month of the Monarch- adopted 4.3.2023.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

The Mebane Garden Council has offered financial support to the Parks Department for the butterfly garden projects.

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.

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

Currently Parks and Public Works are participating.

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

The most impactful revision has been creating areas that are no mow and no spray zones.

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

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

Department Heads

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

75

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We have planted three gardens this year and The Parks Department plans to plant several more each year with native pollinator plants.

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