City Of Mebane

Mebane, NC

Mayor Ed Hooks

Pledge Summary

Nestled between Raleigh and Greensboro, the rapidly growing city of Mebane stands as a thriving community at the crossroads of major railways and highways. Renowned for its beautiful parks and strategic location, Mebane's economic and cultural significance in the region is on the rise. Committing to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation in Mebane will contribute significantly to the health of diverse flora and fauna found in our city as well as adding to its natural beauty.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- 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

- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.).

10000

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.

30

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.

Cate's Farm park

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 locations are free to the public

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

We are a growing city with a responsibility to maintain biodiversity.

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?

Social media has been useful to spread our "No Mow" message for Cate's farm Park this year.

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

We transitioned an entire facility to be almost completely no mow and no spray.

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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.

Common Milkweed Bee 24 Cate's.jpg

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

Recreation and Parks

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

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We decided to transform one of our parks into a "No Mow" space. It will now only get completely mowed once a year in the winter. We planted several native species around the playground in the park including native milkweed species. There are acres of common milkweed naturally growing at this facility.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

No Mow sign.docx

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

4

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

4 signs are located at Cate's farm park. Two explain the "no mow" areas and two are butterfly highway signs.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Recreation and Parks

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 just finished a draft of our new IPM policy, and a final draft should be finished and adopted next year.

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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.

Monarch Cat 24 2.jpg

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

Monarch at Cate's 24.jpg

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

Recreation and Parks

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

10

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Several more Asclepias incarnata were planted around the Mebane Arts and Community Center as well as by the Playground at Cate's Farm Park. We had caterpillars for the first time this year!

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

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

Cate's No Mow Fall 24.jpg

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

Department Heads

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

In Progress

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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.

This was the first year we left a large portion of Cate's Farm to grow wild and we had a lot of great feedback from the community. We hope to have an official "No-Mow" policy for this park next year.

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