The Woodlands Township

The Woodlands, TX

Mrs. Monique Sharp

Pledge Summary

Located about 30 miles north of downtown Houston, Texas, The Woodlands officially began in 1974. The Woodlands is a master-planned community with approximately 118,000 residents and approximately 2,100 businesses. The Woodlands is well known for its extensive parks and recreation, golf, corporate headquarters, schools, places of worship, shopping, dining, hospitality, healthcare and much more. Today, there are 151 parks and 220 miles of hike and bike trails. Recently designated a Monarch Champion by NWF, The Township strives to continue to be an example of the impact that communities can make to pollinator conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Chairman Brad Bailey	2026	12/8/2025	
Chairman Brad Bailey	2025	4/29/2025	Leadership Circle
Chairperson of the Board of Directors Dr. Ann Snyder	2024	3/14/2024	Leadership Circle
Chairperson of the Board of Directors Dr. Ann Snyder	2023	4/21/2023	Leadership Circle
Mrs. Monique Sharp	2022	1/14/2022	Signatories

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Chairman of the Board of Directors Gordy Bunch	2021	2/5/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

4317

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.)

1221 youth and 3096 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.

1.25

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.

yards, containers, community gardens, parks, Park and Ride greenspace

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

We endeavor to include all residents and visitors in our programs. To this end our classes and community events are always free to the public, and advertised on a mix of online and print outlets, as well as through in person attendance at other community event to share our offerings. We additionally give away bare root seedlings, wildflower seeds, and educational material free-of-charge throughout the year.

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

We are a community purposely built "in harmony with nature" through the vision of our founder, George Mitchell. By taking the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, we hope to raise the visibility of the problems facing monarchs and other pollinators and empower residents to make changes in their own yards to create habitat and reduce pesticide use. We additionally use the pledge as a tool to engage other organizations and businesses to further habitat creation in easement, rights-of way, and other public spaces.

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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?

The monthly video cals/presentations featuring the successes and lessons learned from other programs, as well as the online resources that explain the nuts and bolts of habitat creation have been the most valuable to our efforts. Having more communication resources in Spanish would help us expand our outreach to other segments of our population.

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

We have successfully installed a pollinator meadow at a local Park and Ride facility that features 3 species of native milkweeds, along with other native nectar plants and host species for a range of local insects. Success in this 1/4 acre trial area will inform future efforts to convert more of the greenspace at this facility into high-quality monarch habitat.

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.)

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

Milkweed Care Sheet.pdf

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

Pollipool - half-sheet handout.pdf

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

Building Blocks Graphic_FB.png

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

2022_WLS Magazine Page.png

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

Through print, social media, print media, in-person classes, and outreach booths, we engage the public with our Plant for Pollinators program that places an emphasis on creating pollinator pockets in yards and pollinator-friendly spaces in cul-de-sac medians in neighborhoods. We additionally give milkweed fact sheets along with seed giveaways.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

2022 Woodlands Landscaping Solutions.docx

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Over two events, Arbor Day Tree Giveaway and Woodlands Landscaping Solutions we distributed 13,000 native bare root tree seedlings, 1000 wildflower seed mixes, and 1000 milkweed seed kits

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

3800

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

We partnered with an Environmental Education NGO The Woodlands GREEN, local Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Chapters, National Charity League / Roundtable, Woodlands Water Agency, and local native plant nurseries

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

2022_INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE.docx

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

4

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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.

Volunteers largely use hand tools to remove invasive species, which are bagged and landfilled. Periodically they apply a cut-stump treatment of herbicide to target difficult woody species such as Chinese tallow. Trained Invasives Task Force volunteers often lead community/corporate service groups and boy scouts completing Eagle Scout projects to remove invasive species at target sites. ITF volunteers maintain cleared areas from invasive re-growth as needed until the Township Park Dept can reforest the area, though their own program or in concert with Environmental Services at the annual Community Tree Planting event (see attached). In 2022, 321 volunteer appearances by 119 individuals contributed 1100-plus hours and removed more than 8,000 pounds of invasive plant material from the community’s green spaces and pathways.

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