Town Of Middletown

Middletown, MD

Burgess John Miller

Pledge Summary

Middletown is a small town of 4500 people located in the center of the fertile Middletown Valley. It is home to farms and natural environments that support our community and the natural species that live within it. Our Sustainability Committee recognized by Sustainable Maryland has worked diligently to raise awareness of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. Our town and the committee engage with citizens and community garden groups and urge the planting if native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants. We are proud of our progress and recognize that there is more to do to protect the monarch butterfly.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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 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 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing 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

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

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- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Burgess John Miller	2024	1/18/2024	
Burgess John Miller	2023	1/17/2023	Leadership Circle
Burgess John Miller	2022	12/13/2021	Leadership Circle
Burgess John Miller	2021	2/9/2021	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.).

4500

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.)

1400 youth and 3100 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.

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0.06

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.

school, park, open space, golf course rough areas

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

The Town of Middletown includes a very low percentage of low-income residents and residents of color. All residents have access to monarch habitat at the elementary school and in our parks and open space.

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

The Town is a very sustainability-minded community with engaged public officials. We felt it was our obligation to do what we can to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.

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?

I attended some of the bi-monthly network-wide calls for the program and found them helpful, as well as the great information included in the monthly emails. Our Town provides lots of access to high-quality, usable nature in the forms of parks and walking trails, so I'm not sure what resources would be useful in terms of that.

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

Although we are pleased with our newly established pollinator garden and our educational efforts thus far, we are looking forward to the end of the pandemic when we will be able to engage with the public more at community events.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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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.

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

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

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

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

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?

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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.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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.

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?

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.

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.

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Date of Proclamation:

March 1, 2021

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

Monarch Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Pledge Month Proclamation.pdf

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.

GSUSA-Gold-Award-Scholarship-App.pdf

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

Middletown Butterflys-FNP.pdf

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

A local girl scout is planning to create a blog and brochures with information about monarchs and their habitat. One of the co-chairs of the Sustainability Committee is her project advisor for this Gold Award project. The girl scout will also distribute packets of perennial wildflower seeds to the Town residents to encourage property owners to plant sustainable habitat for the monarchs. The Town also had great publicity in the local newspaper about our Mayors Monarch Pledge!

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.

Sustainability Committee Public Works department mowing contractor

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

The Sustainability Committee is working with the Public Works department to ensure that open space areas and park lands that contain monarch habitat/milkweed are not being mowed anymore.

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.

large bag of milkweed seeds.jpg

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

hundreds of milkweed seeds were packed in small manilla envelopes and handed out to folks who attended the Town's annual Christmas in the Valley event.

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

400

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

The Sustainability Committee packaged the seed packets and partnered with the Main Street program and the Christmas in the Valley group to help distribute the seed packets to those that attended the event.

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.

FrederickNewsPost_20210628_A05_2.pdf

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

monarch caterpillars at new pollinator garden.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

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coordinates, if possible)

The pollinator demonstration garden was planted in May and June 2021 at the Town's most popular park - Middletown Memorial Park - located at 310 South Church Street. This town park is the most centrally located of all the town's parks and made the most sense to establish a pollinator garden there.

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

Members of the Sustainability Committee planted the garden after the area was prepared by the Town's Public Works department. The location was approved by the Middletown Burgess & Commissioners.

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.

0.1

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Outdoor classroom photo 2.jpg

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

Outdoor classroom photo 3.jpg

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

Outdoor classroom photo.jpg

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

MES monarch waystation.jpg

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

Monarch waystation at MES.jpg

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

A monarch waystation was established at the local elementary school, and the Town is helping to maintain it.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Middletown Elementary School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

We are providing educational materials, and compost for the garden.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

475 students and 20 educators

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

none

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

0.05

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

The garden is monitored throughout the year by educators and Sustainability Committee members to ensure that it is being maintained.

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Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

17.32.245___Outdoor_lighting_standards..pdf

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

Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown, Middletown Planning Commission

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

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.

February 13, 2017

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

milkweed on golf course after mowing.jpg

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

Milkweed plants on golf course 6.2021.jpg

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Mario Worton, the local golf course landscape superintendent, joined the Monarchs in the Rough program after initially not being responsive to our requests to stop mowing down monarch habitat and milkweed on the golf course property. He even gave us a large bag of his extra common milkweed seeds for us to distribute. We were able to keep at least an acre of land owned by the golf course to be kept in monarch habitat.

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