Town Of Middletown

Middletown, MD

Burgess John Miller

Pledge Summary

Middletown is a small town of about 4,900 people located in the center of the fertile Middletown Valley in western Frederick County, MD. 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. Numerous efforts have been ongoing to help save them which include: our local golf course is working to preserve areas where milkweed grows, mowing patterns have been changed, a pollinator garden has been planted in a highly used park, and public communication efforts have ramped up. Join us in protecting habitat for our local monarch population!

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

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- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- 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.

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.).

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.)

30 youth; 170 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

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared

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public spaces, and more.

residences and community gardens

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

We are not engaging specific communities and are reaching out to all residents as a whole.

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

Just the deep concern about the decline of the monarch population and wanting to do our part to help save them.

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 Network-wide meetings have been helpful. Social media templates and signage would be helpful.

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

We were disappointed to see quite a decline in monarch caterpillar and monarch butterfly sightings this year, and it seems like others in the mid-Atlantic were experiencing the same thing.

Selected Action Items

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:

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

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.

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

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.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

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

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)

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

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.

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?

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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.

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.

10.28.2023 Monarchs.pdf

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

One of our Sustainability Committee members gave a wonderful, super informative, talk about monarch butterflies at our local library that was well attended. She also gave out milkweed seeds to the attendees along with a couple of other pollinator-friendly plant seeds. Her presentation, along with her PowerPoint presentation, will be available on the town's greenmiddletown.com website and on our YouTube channel.

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.

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

3.11.23Pollinator Garden (1).pdf

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

Many Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners attended a lecture led by one of our Sustainability Committee members about why pollinator gardens matter. The discussion afterwards was lively and engaging by all who attended.

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

The Master Naturalist and Master Gardener programs in our area are all well-connected to Green Teams such as ours around the County and through members belonging to multiple organizations, there is a great deal of engagement and education regarding monarch conservation efforts.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Monarch, bee and flower art piece.jpg

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

Main Street Middletown

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

2

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Valley Craft Network Studio Tour artist, Jane Petit created the lovely flower for Main Street Middletown. The butterfly and bee were added as a nod to Middletown residents and our businesses commitment to sustainability.

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.

The Monarch Alliance FALL-Native-Plant-Sale 2023.png

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

Monarch Joint Venture milkweed seed collection.pdf

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

50 seed packets were given away at the Town's Heritage Festival held in early October.

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

200

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

Monarch Joint Venture, Heritage Festival committee, Monarch Alliance

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

spring planting at circle5.JPG

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

Foxfield eyebrow.pdf

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

The Smithfield circle and eyebrow are located in the Foxfield subdivision in the northeast section of Town. The nearest address to the circle is 201 Smithfield Drive and the nearest address to the eyebrow is 2 Keller Lane.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

950

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.14

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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Sustainability members, along with nearby residents, maintain the areas by pulling weeds as needed. After planting was done in May, it was watered by the Public Works Department three times a week.

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.

Milkweed 6.2023.jpg

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

Middletown Sustainability Committee

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

16

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Middletown Sustainability Committee maintains the garden and determines if additional plants are needed, or if plants should be divided, throughout the year. They also help to maintain the plants and keep weeds out. This year we needed to remove snake master plants that were taking over and they were planted in residents own gardens. Sixteen plants were added in an area that was otherwise too bare.

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.

Foxfield circle 6 July 2022.jpg

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

0.06

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.

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We have traditionally had a pervasive issue of invasive thistle in the Smithfield circle in Town. The Public Works Department has tried to eradicate it, but it keeps coming back. Methods used have been hand-pulling, herbicides. The Town will continue to work to keep it at bay, but our hopes are that the dozens of native plants that have been planted where the thistle is will flourish and eventually leave no room for the thistle.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

gravel surround now at pollinator garden.jpg

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

Pollinator habitat signage.jpg

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

31

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

Each of the plant species in our pollinator garden has a small metal label with the name of the plant with both the common name and the scientific name.

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

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

List of Native Understory Trees.docx

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

List of Native Overstory Trees.docx

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

Planning and Zoning staff

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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.

in progress

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

The Town has lists of native trees and shrubs that must be used by developers in their landscaping plans. These lists were recently updated with additional species added. Staff will next work on a list of native plants to be used by developers.

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