City of Memphis

Memphis, TN

Mayor Paul A. Young

Pledge Summary

The City of Memphis is committed to creating and preserving spaces in our community that attract and support Monarchs and other pollinators. We have several community partners who have established Monarch habitats and we value having these vibrant spaces in our community.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Paul A. Young	2025	2/13/2025	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.).

0

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

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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.

0

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.

The habitats are being created in public spaces, community gardens, parks and rights of way for the most part.

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

There are a number of community based organizations in low income communities in Memphis who have established pollinator gardens as learning and teaching opportunities for the communities that they serve.

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

By taking the pledge, we ensure a focused effort on making a difference for Monarchs and other pollinators.

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?

It has been very beneficial to see what other cities are doing and to learn more on best practices. Many of our community based organizations are doing excellent work around community engagement, but having easily accessible educational materials would be an added resource.

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

Memphis pollinator efforts include creating pollinator gardens at public spaces like the Memphis Botanic Garden, Overton Park, and the Wolf River Greenway. The Memphis River Parks Partnership has dedicated pollinator habitats in Tom Lee Park and other riverfront parks, while the Memphis Zoo has expanded its own native pollinator habitats with new native plants

Selected Action Items

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Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Memphis Parks, The Works, Inc. Memphis Native Tree Works

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Memphis was recently designated as a People's Garden site through the USDA People's Garden Initiative.

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.

Monarch pledge attachment.docx

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

Information about the number of seeds given away is not readily available. The Seed Library functions as a free exchange of seed packets for the Memphis community and is located on the 3rd floor of Central Library. A former card catalog now houses seeds of all kinds, including vegetables, flowers, and herbs.

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

0

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

Memphis Libraries, Memphis Tilth, UT Extension.

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)

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McFarland Park (4955 Cottonwood) in Memphis, TN, features a bioswale with native pollinator plants, including goldenrod, ironweed, and milkweed, which supports local ecosystems and pollinators, including MonarcThis green infrastructure project, a collaboration with The Works, Inc., was created to show the effectiveness of nature-based solutions, transforming a flood-prone area into a functioning ecosystem. The bioswale is a habitat for native plants, which are cared for by volunteers, and is used for community education on native habitats and pollinators.

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

Memphis Native Tree Works, The Works, Inc.

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.

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