



Media Contact: Jessica Ordóñez-Lancet, National Wildlife Federation, ordonezlancetj@nwf.org, 202-797-6809

Local Contact: Cynthia K. Unangst, Town of Middletown, cunangst@ci.middletown.md.us, 301-371-6171

Town of Middletown Burgess John Miller Signs National Wildlife Federation’s “Mayors’ Monarch Pledge” to Help Save the Monarch Butterfly

Town of Middletown, MD (February 9, 2021) – Today, Town of Middletown, Burgess John Miller signed the National Wildlife Federation’s [Mayors’ Monarch Pledge](#), committing to take 14 actions to help save the declining [monarch butterfly](#) and other pollinators.

The Town of Middletown is now part of an expanding North American [network](#) of cities working to create habitat in public parks, public landscaping, vacant lots, roadsides, medians, green roofs, backyard gardens and open spaces throughout the entire community.

“Cities, towns and counties play a pivotal role in advancing monarch butterfly conservation in urban and suburban areas,” said Patrick Fitzgerald, senior director of community wildlife at the National Wildlife Federation. “By working together, we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience majestic monarchs in their communities.”

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,” said Burgess Miller. “Our town and the committee engage with citizens and community garden groups and urge the planting of 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.”

Found across the United States, monarch butterflies numbered around 1 billion in 1996. Today, their numbers have declined significantly as a result of numerous threats, particularly the loss of habitat due to cropland conversion, urban development, and agricultural practices. Degradation of wintering habitat in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the species.

Through the National Wildlife Federation’s [Mayors’ Monarch Pledge](#), cities and municipalities commit each year to create habitat and educate residents on how to make a difference at home or in their community. Mayors who take the pledge commit to at least three of 30 action items to help save the monarch butterfly. These actions include creating a monarch-friendly garden at

city hall, converting abandoned lots to monarch habitat, changing mowing schedules to allow milkweed to grow unimpeded, and 27 other possible actions.

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Programs, cities, counties and towns across the United States are helping local wildlife by restoring and reconnecting habitat in urban and suburban areas while reconnecting people with nature. **For more information about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge**, please go to:

[NWF.org/MayorsMonarchPledge](https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge).

Visit the National Wildlife Federation Media Center at [NWF.org/News](https://www.nwf.org/News).

The [National Wildlife Federation](https://www.nwf.org) is America's largest conservation organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nwf), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nwf), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nwf).

###