City of Pickering

Pickering, ON

Mayor David Ryan

Pledge Summary

Over the past several years, Pickering has developed and implemented a number of initiatives to support the Monarch butterfly and other important pollinators such as birds, bats and bees. Through participation in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Pickering will continue to help create Monarch habitat, raise community awareness about the importance of these species, and educate residents on roles they can play. Through collaboration we also endeavor to encourage other Canadian cities to do the same.

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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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

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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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Kevin Ashe	2026	3/27/2026	
Mayor Kevin Ashe	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Kevin Ashe	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Kevin Ashe	2023	3/30/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Kevin Ashe	2022	2/10/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor David Ryan	2021	3/9/2021	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.).

20158

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.)

N/A

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.

0.01

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.

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We added pollinator-friendly plants to our existing park gardens & resident backyards

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

N/A

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

Over the past several years, Pickering has developed and implemented a number of initiatives to assist not only the monarch butterfly, but also other pollinators. By participating in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, we want to help these species, while also encouraging other Canadian cities to do the same.

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 news/updates we receive from the Mayors Monarch Pledge are very helpful as it keeps us updated on the current trends in Monarch conservation and what other municipalities are doing. We would like to learn about ideal conditions and locations for pollinator road verges, as this is something we would like to do 2022.

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

It is difficult to quantify pollinator habitat created this year since we work on various programs with multiple partners (Conservation Authorities, School Boards, Residents, Community Groups, etc.) and not all land is City owned.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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

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

During review of development proposals, the City makes recommendation to incorporate native pollinator-friendly plant material.

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.

Butterflyway project.jpg

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

The City of Pickering has partnered with Pickering Butterflyway Rangers on the David Suzuki Foundation - Butterflyway Project. The Butterflyway Project is a volunteer-led movement that is focused on creating habitat for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds in neighbourhoods throughout Canada. To help the Rangers with their goal to help establish “highways of habitat” for the threatened pollinators in our community, the City provided the group with 250 Butterflyway signs for Pickering participants to display on their lawns if they planted pollinator-friendly gardens at their homes.

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

The City engaged with the Butterflyway Rangers, discussed future opportunities and locations for plantings, as well identified ways to promote their efforts via social media, media release, etc.

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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.

Altona forest.jpg

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

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (Youth Corps), Local Business, Altona Forest Stewardship Committee, SoRo Good Neighbours, Valley Plentiful Community Garden

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

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City partnered with a local business to gift 6 of our community gardens with nectar producing plants. The plants were delivered to the community groups to plant in their garden. As well, some of the plants were planted through a partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Youth Corps.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

200

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

Please see action 5. The City provided 200 signs to the Pickering Butterflyway Project to encourage to encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens in their own backyards.

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

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

0.1

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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.

As in previous years, the City worked with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Youth Corps volunteers to pull invasive species from our City parks and gardens which were then safely disposed by the City's Parks department.

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)

In front of City hall

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

Please see action 9

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.

0.01

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.

Over the last few years the City has hosted in-person garden training sessions for community garden volunteers. However due to COVID-19 in the spring, the City conducted assessments for the City’s existing pollinator gardens in order to identify types of pollinator plants that should be added to garden to help it thrive after a dry, harsh summer. These assessments were provided to different community garden groups which encouraged them to plant more native, pollinator-friendly plants.

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

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nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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)

Environmental Schools Grant

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)

3

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

St. Monica Dunbarton High School Gandatsetiagon Public School

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

We have a section for teachers on the City's website that provides them with a list of resources including activities, programs, educational links, and other helpful resources related to helping pollinators.

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).

N/A

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

Durham District Public School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, Ontario French Public School Board

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.

0.01

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

School is responsible for the maintenance schedule.

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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.

Esplanade Park Planters.JPG

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

This project was undertaken with the advice and support of Pickering's Cultural Advisory Committee

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).

50

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).

As part of the Main Street Revitalization Initiative, pollinator sculptures designed by artist Ron Baird were installed in Esplanade Park. The sculptures celebrate and bring awareness to the City's commitment to supporting our pollinator population. They resemble large Joe Pie Weed flowers, which provide a natural food source to a number of honeybees.

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.

Shrub giveaway.JPG

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

300

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

300

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

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As part of Take Pride in Pickering Day, The City of Pickering, in partnership with Ontario Power Generation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and Environmental Stewardship Pickering hosted a free native plant giveaway by handing out 300 serviceberry shrubs for residents to plant in their backyard. Along with the shrubs an information package was provided on the benefit of the species and how to plant it. species provide a useful early nectar and pollen resource in April for early-emerging pollinators.

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:

August 21, 2021

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

Flight of the Monarch Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

LE020721FlightoftheMonarchDay.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.

Pollinator Week.JPG

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

We continuously promote sustainable related activities on the City's website (Pollinator Action) and social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). For example, during Pollinator Week the City hosted a Gardening for Pollinators to help attendees of all ages understand the importance of adding specific plants such as milkweed, and other native plants to their garden to attract pollinators. We also issue news releases, and eNewsletters for various programs, campaigns such as the Pickering Butterflyway Project.

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