Township of King

King Township, ON

Mayor Steve Pellegrini

Pledge Summary

The Township of King is one of the nine municipalities that make up the Regional Municipality of York. With a total area of 339 km2 the Township is home to some of the province's most scenic landscapes and country sides. The Township falls within the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine and possesses a large amount of natural and ecological significance. The Township of King is committed to protecting and enhancing pollinator habitat through annual native wildflower plantings, wildflower and milkweed seed giveaways, workshops and programming as well as nature based education. In 2018, King launched a Seed Saving Program in partnership with the King Township Library. Not only has King taken the Mayors Monarch Pledge, the municipality is also Bee City Certified.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- 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).

Communications and Convening

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

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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.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Pellegrini	2026	1/27/2026	
Mayor Steve Pellegrini	2025	3/10/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Mayor Pellegrini	2024	3/8/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Pellegrini	2023	3/21/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Pellegrini	2022	1/17/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Pellegrini	2021	12/7/2020	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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

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

The Township is committed to enhancing existing and creating new habitats for pollinators in parks, gardens and naturalized areas to support our Bee City Certification & Mayors Monarch Pledge.

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?

access to funding resources. Signage template sharing

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.).

0.8

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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.

Roadsides, parks, open spaces and conservation land, business and backyards

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

unsure

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.)

unsure

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

Unfortunately, due to COVID the Township has had to cancel many in person activities and limit group gatherings. However, next year we plan to pickup where we left off and continue to engage the community and increase the number of opportunities for them to get involved and support the Mayors Monarch Pledge actions.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

Had the opportunity to engage three different youth camp groups in planting native wildflowers at Cold Creek Conservation Area. Participants helped us plant over 600 wildflowers on site and were taught about the important of planting native to support wildlife and enhance pollinator habitat. Township of King outdoor recreation summer camps that run out of Cold Creek Conservation Area.

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

wildflower planting.jpg

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

wp...jpg

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

wp3.jpg

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

wp4.jpg

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

wp5.jpg

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

wp6.jpg

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

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

The launch of the Pollinator Pals Camp in a Box kits provided each participant with fun activities they can do to help learn about the importance of pollinators as you support our

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bee and butterfly buddies. Activities included build your own bee and insect hotel, seed ball making, plant wildflowers, and exploring citizen science monitoring activity sheets. Monitoring sheets were provide in the kits and participants were encouraged to partake in the Mission Monarch Program and contribute to citizen science projects.

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).

0.3

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

King Camp programs

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.

0.4

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.

The Township of King continues to identify invasive species growing throughout the municipality, identify and implement were feasible the removal of various species including dog strangling vine, garlic mustard, phragmites, as well as others. The Township also works with community groups and environmental organizations to provide disposal of invasive species removed by volunteers. Residents can help map the distribution of invasive species present throughout the municipality. Sightings of terrestrial invasive plants growing within King Township can be mapped using King Mapping Software. By reporting sightings staff can identify what plants are present within King, the location of the species, control methods and the severity of the infestation. Mapping the distribution of invasive species will help Township staff monitor and mitigate the spread of invasive plants throughout the municipality. Mapping the distribution of terrestrial invasive plant species can be conducted on all property types including municipal lands, conservation lands, natural areas, green spaces and residential properties. A variety of best management practices have been implemented that are species specific including hand pulling, mowing and cane cutters.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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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 Township has committed to mowing parks more strategically to do our part for the environment. Implementation of the Don’t Mow, Grow Initiative will directly support changing mowing ordinance to enhance natural habitats. Transforming our approach to land use on municipal property by implementing changes such as reduced mowing will help support pollinator habitats and increase natural coverage. Implementing the Don’t Mow Grow initiative directly aligns with several municipal priorities which include the King Climate Action Plan, Mayors Monarch Pledge, Bee City Certification, and the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. The no mow areas will provide opportunity for habitat enhancement and may be subject to native tree, shrub and wildflower plantings which would increase pollinator habitat, canopy coverage, and support biodiversity. King staff have identified 10 ideal park locations that will benefit from mowing reductions with a total mowing reduction area of 78,018.43 sqft. Staff will continue to identify new spaces such as parks, trails and open spaces annually that would be suitable and benefit from reduced mowing.

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

Parks Department

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.)

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

During National Pollinator Week, information was shared through municipal social media pages to raise awareness and educate residents about the importance of pollinator habitats. Social media outreach was conducted to inform residents about the municipalities participation in the Mayors Monarch Pledge as well as our Bee City Certification. The municipality recognizes National Pollinator Week in the Community Waste Calendar and schedules a variety of pollinator focused engagement activities to coincide with National Pollinator Week. In celebration of National Pollinator Week, King Township began developing and implementing a mowing reduction initiative. The initiative focused on converting select areas of Township owned land covered by turf grass into naturalized areas that will enhance the landscape and support pollinators. In addition, the initiative aims to educate residents and businesses about the importance of pollinator and provides

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opportunities for them to reduce mowing on private property. While visiting our parks keep your eyes peeled for our new “Grow Zone” signs" that have been installed in the mowing reduction target areas. During spring 2021, the Environmental Stewardship Coordinator worked with Recreation staff to created Pollinator Pals Camp in a Box Kits. Promotion of the camps were included in the King Township Recreation Guide, social media platforms, and on the King Township website. Native wildflower seed packages and milkweed seed packages were provided in the kits to encourage families to plant pollinator habitats at home and contribute to citizen science monitoring opportunities. The kits were available for two different age groups (4-7) & (8-12). “Take the Pollinator Pledge! The Pollinator Pals Box will provide each participant with fun activities they can do to help learn about the importance of pollinators as you support our bee and butterfly buddies. Activities may include build your own bee and insect hotel, seed ball making, plant wildflowers, explore citizen science monitoring activity sheets and more!”

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.

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

The Community Services, Environmental Stewardship division works collaboratively with the Parks Department, Public Works, and Sustainability to enhancing existing and create new habitats for pollinators in parks, gardens and naturalized areas to support our Mayors Monarch Pledge & Bee City Certification.The Township has committed to mowing parks more strategically to do our part for the environment. In June 2021, Township of King began implementing a mowing reduction initiative. The initiative focuses on converting select areas of Township owned land covered by turf grass into naturalized areas that will enhance the landscape and support pollinators. Strategic locations have been identified where feasible to eliminate mowing. Some areas are small but every little patch adds up. King staff identified 10 ideal park locations in 2021 that will benefit from mowing reductions with a total mowing reduction area of 78,018.43 sqft. Implementation of the Don’t Mow, Grow Initiative directly aligns with the municipalities Mayors Monarch Pledge action of changing the mowing ordinance to enhance natural habitats. Transforming our approach to land use on municipal property will help support pollinator habitats and increase natural coverage. Implementing the Don’t Mow Grow initiative also aligns with several municipal priorities which include the King Climate Action Plan, Mayors Monarch Pledge, Bee City Certification, and the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. The no mow areas will provide opportunity for habitat enhancement and may be subject to native tree, shrub and wildflower plantings which would increase pollinator habitat, canopy coverage, and support biodiversity. Staff will continue to identify new spaces such as parks, trails, and open spaces annually that would be suitable and benefit from reduced mowing. Education and training will be offered to park staff annually during the spring prior to mowing. Signage will be installed at each of the target locations to educate and inform park and trail users of the initiative. Another department collaboration includes the Community Service Department, Environmental Stewardship division working with the Public Works Department to enhance natural coverage along 15th side road and 8th Concession as part of the road repaving project. Staff worked collaboratively to identify six sections along the roadside ditches on 15th sideroad to plant native wildflowers and spread wildflower seed. Approximately 1000 sqft of pollinator habitat was incorporated into the project which will support our Bee City

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Certification and Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. Working together has been beneficial for both departments supporting environmental stewardship deliverables while incorporating environmental enhancements into the repaving project. Environmental Stewardship was happy to share resources, help with species selection, and the coordination of the plantings.

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

No Mow Sign (002).jpg

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

15thsdrd planting.jpg

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

15th sdrd planting.jpg

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

15th sdrd planting 5.jpg

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

15th sdrd planting 3.jpg

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

Parks Department Community Services Department Public Works Deparment Sustainability

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

30

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

The Environmental Stewardship Coordinator works with the Cold Creek Conservation Area staff to conduct milkweed seed collection which is used for nature based programming, activities and camps (seed ball making, plant a pot) offered onsite to youth groups, camps and schools. Prior to the pandemic, Environmental Stewardship incorporated milkweed

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seed collection into the Jr. Explorers program and guided hikes offered at Cold Creek Conservation Area. The Township of King will continue to conduct milkweed seed collection and help spread seed in natural areas to further support monarchs. In addition, Environmental Stewardship has partnered with the King Township Library to offer a Community Seed Saving Program & Lending library where interested participants can sign out seeds (including milkweed) and also contribute seeds.

What species were collected or propagated?

butterfly milkweed, swamp, common milkweed

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

King Camp programs & Cold Creek Programming, King Township Library

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).

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

Township of King Community Services Department, Camps as well as the Kettleby Village Association.

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)

na

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.

0.02

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

King Camp programs

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

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The Kettleby Village Association volunteers are regularly watering and weeding the pollinator garden (50sqft) at Tyrwhitt Park. The Environmental Stewardship Coordinator works with Cold Creek Staff to maintain the wildflower plots planted in the Tall Grass Prairie at Cold Creek.

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).

50 youth and 5 adults

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)

0.04

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

The Township of King helped support the Kettleby Village Association Community Groups Butterfly Way Project to create a new pollinator/ bee friendly garden at Tyrwhitt Parksituated in Kettleby. The Township provided support through site prep, mulching and provided an additional 2 trays of milkweed plugs to be planted. In 2021, the municipality continued to offer in person nature based and recreation programming and camps in smaller group sizes. Environmental Stewardship worked with three different youth camp groups to plant native wildflowers at Cold Creek Conservation Area in the Tall Grass Prairie. Participants helped us plant over 1200 wildflowers on site and were taught about the importance of planting native to support wildlife and enhance pollinator habitats.

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

wildflower planting 2.jpg

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

wildflower planting 3.jpg

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

wildflower planting.jpg

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

wp camps 1.jpg

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

wp camps.jpg

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

wp3.jpg

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wp4.jpg

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

wp5.jpg

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

wp6.jpg

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

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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)

0.14

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

Interpretive signage is present at various parks throughout the municipality where pollinator habitats and gardens have been planted. In addition, through the new mowing reduction initiative, "No Mow" signage has been installed to inform residents and identify areas where mowing reduction have been implemented. "No Mow" signs have been displayed at 10 park locations some of which include Cold Creek Conservation, Doris Patton Park, Pottageville Park, Kettle Lake Park , Tyrwhitt Park, Dufferin Marsh, Schomberg Community Farm as well as other parks. Signage has also been installed at Tasca Park, Cold Creek Conservation Area, Dufferin Marsh, and the Schomberg Community Farm.

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

No Mow Sign (002).jpg

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

PollinatorHabitat_sign_18x18inch ii.pdf

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

in progress/ongoing

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

Township of King Parks Department

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

The Environmental Stewardship Coordinator works closely with the Parks Manager to identify new opportunities to integrate native plants, shrubs and trees while enhancing existing areas with native vegetation. The Township is committed to preserving and increase tree canopy and natural coverage through the municipality. Environmental Stewardship also works closely with the conservation authority, planting organizations,and community groups to engage the community and offer hands on educational experiences to get involved in habitat enhancement projects. In 2021, over 1200 native trees and shrubs were planted and more than 2000 wildflowers were planted through community engagement. As new parks come online, Environmental Stewardship will continue to work with the Parks Department to identify opportunities to enhance existing spaces with native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs.

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