Township of King

King Township, ON

Mayor Mayor 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 municipality 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 preserving and enhancing pollinator and monarch habitat through native wildflower plantings, wildflower and milkweed seed giveaways, educational workshops, signage, citizen science monitoring as well as nature-based education. Participating in the Mayors Monarch pledge directly aligns with municipal priorities while also supporting Environmental Stewardship initiatives focused on educating and engaging residents and enhancing monarch and pollinator habitat throughout the municipality.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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 engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and

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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.

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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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 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.).

618

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.)

265

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.

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0.14

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.

Habitat is being created in resident yards, right of ways, roadsides, community gardens and shared public spaces in municipality owned parks, open spaces and conservation land.

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

The Township of King is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to provide equal opportunity for everyone to participate in recreation services. The Community Services Department provides free pollinator focused workshops, guided hikes and milkweed and native wildflower seed packet giveaway at the Environmental Outreach table set up at Community Events and Community Tree Plantings.

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

The Township of King is committed to conserving and enhancing pollinator and monarch habitat through native wildflower plantings, wildflower and milkweed seed giveaways, educational workshops, signage, citizen science monitoring, programming as well as nature-based education. Participating in the Mayors Monarch pledge directly aligns with municipal priorities while also supporting Environmental Stewardship initiatives focused on educating and engaging residents and enhancing monarch and pollinator habitat.

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?

Templates and factsheets for municipalities to share on website, promotional hand bills and flyers to distribute at events and programming, educational videos for online sharing. A scorecard developed to highlight annual action commitments by participants which can be shared with the community and through outreach channels.

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

The Township of King Community Services Department supports community science efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health. During the summer of 2024, the Environmental Outreach & Sustainability secured a coop student and two seasonal staff who assisted with various Environmental Stewardship projects and initiatives. The student was responsible for conducting monarch monitoring and submitting data to monarch mission regarding the monarch butterfly and caterpillar siting at Cold Creek Conservation

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Area. In addition, volunteers as well as the student helped with the collection of milkweed seed pods to utilize for future seed distribution throughout the Township.

Selected Action Items

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).

The Township of King, Community Services Department conducts public communication efforts to encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens through various channels which include social media outreach, sharing resources on the King Township website, distributing Pollinator Garden and Monarch Butterfly educational resources in the form of brochures, handbills and free milkweed seed packages at community events as well as through offering nature-based programming, and the Green Yards Program to residents in the community. The Green Yards Program offers residents and non residents the opportunity to purchase rain barrels, backyard composters and native wildflower kits at an affordable cost. Wildflower kits include 10 native potted wildflowers, 1 pack of native wildflower seeds and gardening resources to help them get started. The Environmental Outreach & Sustainability division also offered a variety of free workshops which included a Pollinator Walk & Talk during National Pollinator Week at Cold Creek Conservation as well a series of Gardening Workshops in partnership with the Lake Simcoe South Master Gardens. The Workshops were promoted through social media channels, the local newspaper, the Township of King website as well as through poster distribution.

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.

During 2024, The Township of King worked collaboratively with various community garden groups to educate and encourage them to plant native species that support pollinators. The Environmental Outreach & Sustainability division staff distributed free brochures, provided milkweed seeds to the Seed Lending Library in partnership with the King Township Public Libraries and presented to the Schomberg Garden Club and distributed free milkweed seeds packs to everyone in attendance. Staff also collaborated with the Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners to offer a series of pollinator focused workshops to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators such as monarch butterflies. The workshop series was marketed and shared with community groups including the King City/Nobleton Garden Club, Schomberg Community Farm, King City Community Gardeners, and the Schomberg Garden Club. In addition, staff attended community events to distribute educational resources at the Environmental Stewardship Outreach table. The Township of

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King Environmental Outreach Sustainability staff promoted the Community Seed Saving Program & Lending Library in partnership with the King Township Public Library. In addition, all workshops and greening initiative programs such as the Green Yards Programs were promoted to local community garden groups which included the Schomberg Community Farm and the King City Community Garden.

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.

8 • LEAF partnership Community Plantings • Toronto and Region Conservation Authority • Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority • Ontario Streams • Seneca College Environmental Landscape Management Program • Nobleton Public School Planting at Tasca Park • King City Secondary School at Doris Patton Park • Canadian Wildlife Federation- Pollinator Pilot Planting at Cold Creek CA

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

The Township has continued to commit to mowing parks more strategically to do our part for the environment and identify areas that can be restored through native plantings to help support various pollinator species. Implementation of the Don’t Mow, Grow Initiative directly supports changing mowing ordinance to enhance natural habitats. Transforming our approach to land use on municipal property by implementing changes such as reduced mowing and identifying planting opportunities to increase natural covered 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 Community Climate Action Plan, Mayors Monarch Pledge Certification, Bee City Certification, and the Community Services Master Plan. The no mow areas identified by staff provide opportunities for greater habitat enhancement have been subject to native tree, shrub and wildflower plantings which in tern increases pollinator habitat, canopy coverage, and support biodiversity further. Staff will continue to identify new spaces such as parks, trails, and open spaces annually that would be suitable and benefit from reduced mowing. Signage has been installed at each of the target locations to educate and inform park and trail users of the initiative. The Township of King works closely with various planting partners (LEAF, TRCA, LSRCA, Ontario Streams) to host community plantings throughout the Township. In addition, staff engage local school in hands on experiential learning opportunities through planting. In 2024, various schools were engaged in planting which included Seneca College Environmental Landscape Management Program, Nobleton Public School and King City Secondary School. In addition, the Township of King received funding through the Canadian Wildlife Federation Pollinator Right of Way Funding program to plant 500m2 of custom native pollinator meadow seed at Cold Creek Conservation Area to further enhance pollinator habitat. Staff worked closely with the Canadian Wildlife Federation staff to ensure proper site prep and seed mix was selected. Monitoring the restoration planting area will begin in 2025 to track species, and monitor pollinators within the target planting area.

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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.

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

Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners Nobleton/King City Garden Club Schomberg Horticultural Society King Environmental Action Team Schomberg Community Farm King City Community Garden King Township Public Library Canadian Wildlife Federation Funding Seneca College Environmental Landscape Management Program- planting Pollinator Pals Nature Based Program offered at Cold Creek Conservation Area King City Secondary School King Rebellion Hockey Team Pollinator Partnership Toronto and Region Conservation Authority York Region Greening Partnership Action Fund Pioneer Honey-Apiary Tour

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

The Township of King provides support and works collaboratively with various community groups and organizations to educate, offer workshops and programming, free resource sharing, consultation, and project support that encourage monarch butterfly conservation and habitat creation. King staff were able to support various community groups through the distribution of education resources, milkweed seeds packets and knowledge sharing. The Lake Simcoe South Mater Gardeners partnered with the Township of King to host a series of free garden workshops to the community which included themes surrounding How to Create and Design and Pollinator Friendly Garden. Staff work with planting partners to raise awareness throughout the community and engage residents and community groups in various environmental stewardship initiatives offered by the Township. In addition, the Township of King Enrich King Grant Program offers funding to assist community organizations and residents with projects or initiatives that support and advance enhancing and creating pollinator habitat.

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

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

King Heritage & Cultural Centre

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).

200

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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).

King Township is pleased to present Bumble Bee, the second Pollinator Community Art Project. With 250 individual pieces, each hand-painted by King citizens, visitors, staff and students, this puzzle is truly a community effort. The initiative, created by King Heritage & Culture in partnership with King Environmental Stewardship, uses the arts to bring awareness to pollinators and their habitats. The Pollinator Community Art Project directly supports the Township of King's Bee City Certification and Mayors Monarch Pledge actionable goals. The project aims to engage residents and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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

400

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

800

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

Schomberg Horticulture Society- presentation Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners- Garden Workshop Series Events Team for the Township of King King Township Public Libraries LEAF, TRCA, LSRCA and Ontario Streams- Community Plantings

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)

Cold Creek Conservation Area (14125 11th Concession, Nobleton, ON L0G 1T0) https://maps.app.goo.gl/gVhy5LtxNpNK1kmn9 Larkin Avenue & Ballard Drive, Nobleton (King, ON L0G 1N0) https://maps.app.goo.gl/2AGYyBoSiZouqGCw7

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

None- Plantings were conducted by Township staff

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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.

0.19

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 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)

The Township of King continues to offer and evolve a variety of nature-based programs throughout the year for all ages at Cold Creek Conservation. The programs also offered through in school programming. Several programs offered at Cold Creek Conservation Area include Jr. Forest Explorers, Ecosystem Exploration, Pollinator Pals and Little Green Thumbs. The following programs integrate pollinator education to build awareness and engage youth in hands on activities which include creating habitat through wildflower planting, seed ball making and other hands-on activities. Participants learn about the lifecycles of the monarch butterfly, migration, identification and important host plant species such as milkweed. In 2024, the Pollinator Pals Program ran 12 times with approximately 180 students participating.

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)

12

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

Various local schools within King Township and throughout York Region and Peel.

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

Program packages with all applicable information to adequately run the program

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).

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180

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

Cold Creek Conservation Area stff

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

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

integrated in seasonal field laborer weekly maintenance schedule to ensure weeding, trimming and watering is completed

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

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).

17

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

none

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

Environmental Monitoring of Monarch Butterflies on site at Cold Creek Conservation Area was conducted by seasonal environmental staff in the late summer and observations where sheets were provided and submitted to the Mission Monarch Program. In addition, these activities were also incorporated into nature-based programming that was offered through King Township programming run at Cold Creek Conservation Area.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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LEAF, LSRCA, TRCA, King Staff

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

795

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Township of King demonstrates commitment to preserving our natural resources and enhancing the natural environment by investing in green infrastructure. Since 2017, we have planted over 8000 native trees and shrubs in parks and open spaces through community tree planting partnerships. In 2024, the Township successfully planted a total of 8910 native trees and shrubs and wildflowers and seeded 5451 sqft of native wildflowers. We work closely with various partners to identify funding opportunities and identify new locations that would benefit most from planting. By providing volunteer tree planting opportunities to the community, residents, community groups and organizations can participate in experiential learning and contribute to the growth of our canopy and natural areas.

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.

please see below as the total land treated was not calculated in acreage.

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 other species. The Township also works with community groups and environmental organizations to provide disposal of invasive species removed by volunteers. In 2024, 373 Giant Hogweed Plants were removed from Township property, and 200 lbs of garlic mustard was removed from the Cawthra Mulock Reserve. 0.13 hectares of European Buckthorn was removed from Cold Creek Conservation Area in conjunction with Ontario Streams, while 36m2 of Phragmites in the Dufferin Marsh was treated in Fall 2024. 20 lbs of Garlic Mustard was removed from Cold Creek and 8 lbs of Dog strangling vine was removed at Cold Creek. Additionally, The Township of King is currently working on developing an Invasive Species Management Strategy for the municipality which will act as an operational guiding document for staff to help prioritize, monitor and manage invasive species impacting the Township of King.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

20

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

Interactive educational signage continues to be displayed at No Mow areas that are subject to restoration planting. The signage informs residents that the area has been designated as a no mow area to help support pollinators and increase natural coverage. Signs are displayed throughout the municipality at parks, open spaces and Cold Creek Conservation Area.

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

none

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 of King continues to identify new locations where we can increase native plantings of wildflower trees and shrubs and encourage the use of milkweed. Through the Green Yards Program, the wildflower kits offered to residents at a low cost include butterfly milkweed and common milkweed. In addition, through programming at Cold Creek Conservation in the fall staff collect milkweed seed pods and spread seeds in areas of the property that have limited milkweed. This deliverables will remain as an ongoing deliverable.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Work interdepartmentally

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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 of King strives to be a leader in conservation and habitat enhancement and created. Several municipal guiding documents which include the Corporate Strategic Plan, The Official Plan, The King Community Climate Action Plan and the ThinKing Green Development Standards integrate pollinator education, awareness and support the creation of enhancing existing habitats. As guiding documents come up for renewal and updates, new opportunities will arise to advance and integrate butterfly conservation in guiding documents.

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