# Township of King

King Township, ON

Mayor Steve Pellegrini

## Pledge Summary

The Township of King is one of nine municipalities within the Regional Municipality of York, spanning 339 square kilometers. Known for its stunning landscapes and picturesque rural character, King is located within both the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine—areas recognized for their significant natural and ecological importance. The Township is committed to protecting and enhancing habitats for pollinators and monarch butterflies. This dedication is reflected through a range of initiatives, including the planting of native wildflowers, distributing wildflower and milkweed seeds, and hosting free educational workshops. In addition, the Township installs informational signage, supports citizen-science monitoring programs, and provides nature-based learning opportunities for the community. By participating in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the Township of King strengthens its alignment with municipal priorities and advances its Environmental Stewardship initiatives. These efforts focus on educating and engaging residents while improving habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators throughout the municipality.

## Action Items Committed for 2026

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

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

1050

**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.)**

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518

**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.**

1.69

**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.**

Cold Creek Conservation Area, Tyrwhitt Park in Kettleby, Bluff Trail in Nobleton, community gardens and private residences

**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 leverages the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to provide inclusive, low-barrier opportunities for residents to participate in pollinator conservation. Free pollinator-focused workshops, guided hikes, environmental education, community planting activities, and milkweed and native wildflower seed giveaways are offered throughout the community, helping reduce financial barriers to participation. King also supports equitable access to municipal programming through its Community Assistance Program, which is based on the principle that residents should have access to recreation and community programming regardless of socioeconomic status or ability to pay.

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

The Township of King's motivation for participating in and continuing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is to protect and enhance local biodiversity while creating meaningful opportunities for residents to take part in environmental stewardship. Through habitat creation, native planting, environmental education, community events, and free seed giveaways, the Township aims to increase awareness of the importance of monarchs and other pollinators while encouraging residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods. The Pledge also complements King's broader efforts to enhance natural areas, increase native vegetation, support wildlife habitat, and foster stronger connections between residents and the natural environment.

**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?**

Resources provided through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, along with educational materials and guidance from conservation partners, have been helpful in supporting the Township's pollinator education, habitat creation and community outreach efforts. Moving forward, additional ready-to-use educational materials that can be distributed at community events

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and workshops, adaptable outreach templates, habitat planning guidance and adaptable interpretive signage that can be displayed at pollinator gardens and used for programming would help strengthen local programming.

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

Over the past year, the Township of King's Environmental Outreach & Sustainability division has continued to support monarch and pollinator conservation through youth focused nature programming, free native wildflower seed distribution, partnerships with community groups, and hands on planting opportunities. Together, these initiatives help expand pollinator habitat, increase environmental awareness and encourage community participation in local conservation efforts.

## Selected Action Items

### 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.**

### 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.**

### 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.**

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

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

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

## 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)**

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

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

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

**What species were collected or propagated?**

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

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

## 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.**

## 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).

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**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)**

**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)**

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

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

**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).**

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

**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.**

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

## 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?**

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

## 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).**

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

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

## 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?**

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

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

## 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 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.**

## 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)**

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

## 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?**

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

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

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

## 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?**

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

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

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

## 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.**

King Sentinel_May21.pdf

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

SpringSummer Activities Flyer.pdf

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

2026_Green Yards_Curbex sign 2.pdf

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

The Township of King encouraged residents to create pollinator-friendly yards through the spring Green Yards Program which launches in the spring providing residents with the option to purchase individual native wildflowers or purchase kits to plant at home at an affordable cost. Promotion included social media, the Township of King website, Curbex

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roadside signage, posters, and outreach at community events. The program distributed more than 320 native plants through 25 wildflower kits, helping expand habitat for monarchs and other pollinators.

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