City of Toronto

Toronto, ON

Mayor John Tory

Pledge Summary

Toronto is home to more than 2.9 million people making it Canada's largest city and fourth largest city in North America. Toronto is also home to diverse pollinator communities that contribute to resilient ecosystems and enhance urban biodiversity. In 2018, Toronto adopted a Pollinator Protection Strategy, that identifies a set of guiding principles, six priorities and 30 actions that the City and community can take to protect our diverse native pollinator community. Toronto is committed to protecting the more than 360 species of bees and more than 100 species of butterflies and other pollinators that call Toronto home.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

- 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.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Olivia Chow	2026	1/15/2026	
Mayor Oliva Chow	2025	4/29/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Olivia Chow	2024	4/17/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Tory	2023	2/14/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Tory	2022	3/16/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Tory	2021	3/19/2021	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.).

300

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.)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

unsure

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.

0.75

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.

PollinateTO support habitat creation on public and private land, which includes residential front yards, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, boulevards, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas and parks.

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

Our PollinateTO Community Grants program prioritizes Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Emerging Neighbourhoods, which are specially selected and designated neighbourhoods in Toronto found to have inequities on several indicators of well-being.

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

Community interest

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?

online webinars

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

We have partnered with community organizations to expand our reach and train more interested community members in habitat creation. We have often interested community members the opportunity to become Certified Pollinator Stewards, through a partnership with Pollinator Partnership Canada.

Selected Action Items

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

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?

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).

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).

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.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.

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:

Third week of June

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Pollinator Week 2022_City of Toronto.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.)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

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

DS-21-0224-GoldenRod_Factsheet_Digital.pdf

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

WildAboutBees_Web.pdf

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

Online content: We have a dedicated website called "Wild About Bees" that encourages the creation of pollinator friendly habitat. Please see https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/live-green-toronto/tips-to-create-a-pollinator-friendly-garden/ Through PollinateTO we have even more resources and funding available to encourage community-led habitat creations. Please see https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/pollinateto-community-grants/ Translated ads: In 2022, we advertised PollinateTO in local community papers and translated our content into the following languages: Chinese (simplified and traditional), Farsi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil.

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.

Partnerships with the following groups were established or maintained: Pollinator Partnership Canada - training, Pollinator Steward Certification North American Native Plant Society - native plant sales and contests Project Swallowtail - mentorship, plant sales, seed starting David Suzuki Foundation - habitat creation goals align, support the same projects Supported 103 PollinateTO projects, proposed by resident-led community groups. Each group received training, resources, native plant material and financial support to create habitat in their neighbourhoods.

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.

The Toronto Green Standard is Toronto’s sustainable design and performance requirements for new private and city-owned developments since 2010. The Standard consists of tiers of performance applied through the planning approval process. Updates were made to Version 4 to include a requirement for native plant material and species

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

selection to ensure continuous bloom. Version 4 came into effect May 1, 2022 for new planning applications. Requirement: Plant the at-grade landscaped site area using a minimum of 50% native plants (including trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants) comprising at least two native flowering species that provide continuous bloom throughout all periods over the growing season. Where potable water is used for irrigation, native and non-native plants must also be drought-tolerant. Do not plant any invasive species.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

PollinateTO prioritizes funding for community-led projects located in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) and Emerging Neighbourhoods (ENs), which are specially selected and designated neighbourhoods in Toronto found to have inequities on several indicators of well-being. To date PollinateTO has supported 30 projects located in NIAs.

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?

Pollinator Partnership Canada, Bee City Canada

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

Toronto became the first Bee City in Canada. PollinateTO & Pollinator Protection Strategy https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/environmental-grants-incentives/pollinateto-community-grants/

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?

Pollinator Partnership Canada

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

3600

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Through PollinateTO, over 300 gardens have been created. Each garden must have a minimum of 12 native plants. Milkweed is required plant. The other is goldenrod.

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.

not sure

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.

Invasive species management on public land is done by qualified Urban Forestry staff only. This is an ongoing effort.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Permanent Pollinator Garden Sign_Updated 2022.pdf

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

500

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

Please see the example sign uploaded.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

PollinateTO funds boulevard gardens across the city.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

200

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

unsure

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

PollinateTO Groups (consisting of at least 3 members of the community) are responsible for maintenance.

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

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

Pollinator Partnership Canada

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

complete

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.

January 1, 2022

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

https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/public-notices-bylaws/bylaw-enforcement/turfgrass-prohibited-plants/

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).

300

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Pollinator Partnership Canada, David Suzuki Foundation

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

iNaturalist

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)

PollinateTO

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)

45

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

Toronto District School board Toronto Catholic District School board Conseil Scolaire Viamonde

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

training, plant lists, kids activities, books, tools, plant materials, and more.

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).

450

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]

Ontario EcoSchools, local school boards

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.

2.4

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

All Groups must submit a maintenance plan, which includes a watering schedule and plan for summer months when school is not in session. All approved garden locations must be located to a source of water to ensure success.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u194:v1.14.0.49966]