City of Toronto

Toronto, ON

Mayor Olivia Chow

Pledge Summary

The City of Toronto works to protect and restore pollinator populations and biodiversity across the city through a range of programs, policies, and community partnerships. Central to these efforts is the Pollinator Protection Strategy, which guides habitat creation, stewardship, and public engagement to support healthy ecosystems and climate resilience. The PollinateTO Grants program is a key component of this strategy, directly supporting community-led projects that plant native species, enhance greenspaces, and foster hands-on stewardship. Through PollinateTO, the City not only safeguards wild pollinators and increases local biodiversity, but also advances broader priorities for sustainable, resilient communities and supports the implementation of the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 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.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit 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.).

4000

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.)

1500

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.

1.3

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.

Residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and parks.

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

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Funding distribution for pollinator habitat creation is prioritized by Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Emerging Neighbourhoods, and for projects led by equity-deserving communities.

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

PollinateTO supports and advances the Mayor's Monarch Pledge by enabling community-led habitat creation, education, and stewardship projects that expand pollinator-friendly spaces across Toronto, helping the City meet biodiversity, climate resilience, and environmental education goals while empowering residents to take local action.

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?

Most helpful resources to date have included the Mayor's Monarch Pledge framework; City-led funding programs such as PollinateTO; technical guidance on native plants and habitat design; Canadian Wildlife Federation meetings and resources; Bee City Canada through Pollinator Partnership Canada; the David Suzuki Foundation's pollinator and biodiversity programming; and partnerships with grassroots, community-led organizations advancing pollinator stewardship at the neighbourhood level. Additional resources that would support our goals include culturally relevant and multilingual engagement tools, wider availability of true native species from local plant suppliers, improved coordination across relevant funding bodies, and shared monitoring and data resources.

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

Over the last year, the City of Toronto has continued to strengthen its monarch butterfly conservation efforts by annually reviewing and refining PollinateTO programming to improve accessibility, responsiveness, and community support. Key activities included hosting pollinator habitat site tours for World Environment Day in partnership with the United Nations, distributing over 2,000 native seedlings to residents at no cost, and delivering How to PollinateTO, a seven-week, place-based Pollinator Stewardship training focused on habitat creation, climate action, Indigenous land stewardship frameworks, site maintenance, and effective community habitat creation.

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.)

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

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.

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 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)

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

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.

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

What was the date of your festival?

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

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

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).

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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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:

June 22, 2026; August 22, 2026

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

Pollinator Week; Flight of the Monarch Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Flight of the Monarch Day_2026.docx

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