City of Vaughan

City of Vaughan, ON

Mr Maurizio Bevilacqua

Pledge Summary

The City of Vaughan is a city in Ontario, Canada with a population of 300,000. The City has supported the Mayors' Monarch Pledge since early 2018 and is committed to protecting pollinators and educating its citizens on the importance of pollinators and their habitats. Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua is committed to continuing to fulfill actions to benefit pollinators as listed in the Monarch Pledge.

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.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- 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 Steven Del Duca	2025	4/30/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steven Del Duca	2024	3/25/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steven Del Duca	2023	3/2/2023	Leadership Circle
Mr Maurizio Bevilacqua	2022	3/15/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua	2021	12/9/2020	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.).

2047

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.)

200 youth, 1847

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

0.19

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.

In 2022, an existing garden in a public park was expanded. A significant garden was to be planted in 2022 in York Hill District Park, however due to resourcing it has been postponed to 2023. In general, habitat is being created in community gardens, public parks and shared community spaces, roadsides. Residential and private gardens have not been captured in data.

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

Messaging, education and campaigns for the Mayors' Monarch Pledge are delivered to all residents and neighbourhoods across Vaughan. However, the City's Thornhill SNAP engages specifically with people living in subsidized housing - through the SNAP, and in support of the Monarch Pledge, a pollinator garden was planted in that neighbourhood in 2021. The City is taking an active approach to engage marginalized communities though our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, and multi-year action plan. Staff are aware of the need to incorporate DEI into Mayors' Monarch Pledge engagement.

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

The City of Vaughan recognizes that pollinator species are essential in producing the food we eat, play a vital role in the health of our forests and grasslands and provide environmental benefits to maintain healthy ecosystems. Taking the Pledge demonstrates the City's commitment to initiatives that provide opportunities to celebrate biological diversity and educate citizens and City staff on the importance of pollinators. Additionally, on December 17, 2019, Council adopted Green Directions Vaughan, the City's community sustainability plan. Actions within Green Directions Vaughan direct staff to improve greenspace as community amenities and promote habitat condition for wildlife, and to promote green infrastructure, including pollinator habitat, to build resilience based on the effects of climate change.

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?

The policy recommendations/documents are useful; this year the Guide to Passing Wildlife-Friendly Property Maintenance Ordinances was useful as Vaughan undergoes research for a boulevard gardening education program. Since we are a Canadian City, some of the resources are not applicable as they focus on American communities and best practices. Additional Canadian best practices/case studies would be useful.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

The City of Vaughan is shifting to emphasize local collection action to help meet our goals and encourages community partners to collaborate to achieve a variety of sustainability outcomes. In 2022, the City of Vaughan launched Green Guardians, a community stewardship initiative which will provide individuals and community groups with funding to implement environmental and stewardship initiatives in their communities, and one of the key themes is building pollinator habitat.

Selected Action Items

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:

May 27, 2020

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

National Pollinator Week and Flight of the Monarch Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Extract_20cw0520_20ex_11.pdf

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)

1700

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

1700

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

St. Margaret Parish, Woodbridge Pollinator Group, Vaughan Public Libraries, residents that participated in Earth Hour and Pollinator Week. This action is on-going. Pollinator-friendly seed packets were given away at several events throughout the year, including Earth Hour, National Pollinator Week, the Woodbridge Farmers Market and the Woodbridge Fair. In

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

addition, requests from community groups, schools and faith groups for seeds were fulfilled.

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.

Protecting our pollinators - website page PSA.pdf

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

Public service announcements, local Councillor newsletters and social media posts were utilized to raise awareness about protecting our pollinators and encouraging residents to plant pollinator gardens at home. The largest campaign surrounded National Pollinator Week (PSA attached), however education was also promoted around a local campaign, called Flight of the Monarch Day, in August. The City's sustainability website also hosts information about planting pollinator gardens which stays online year-round (Vaughan.ca/environment).

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.

The City Hall community garden group was engaged through York Region Food Network, a non-profit that manages all of the City's community gardens, and the group actively maintained the pollinator garden on site, planting additional nectar producing plants to the garden. The Growing to Give community garden group was also engaged through York Region Food Network, and the group planted milkweed in the garden in 2022. Through the City's Thornhill Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program, a local non-profit received funding to plant a pollinator garden at one of their community gardens. More effort in 2023 is planned, to engage with private property owners that have community gardens.

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.

2 internal departments

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

In 2019, the City of Vaughan's Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations (PFHO) department piloted a revised mowing program to leave strategic "Grow Zones" un-mowed. These Grow Zones focus on converting specific areas in City parks covered by grass into naturalized meadows and pollinator gardens. There are 28 "Grow Zones" designated throughout the City. Staff in Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations are undertaking an annual workplan to determine which Grow Zones are suitable for tree planting or to be seeded with native and pollinator plants. In 2022, 845 trees were planted in select Grow Zones.

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

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

Attachment 1- Draft Sustainability Metrics Guidebook March 2022.pdf

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

The update to the Sustainability Metrics Program (SMP) includes a pollinator metric (NE-6 Supporting Pollinators) encouraging developers to designate space for pollinator habitat. All Block Plans, plans of Subdivision of 10 or more residential units, site plans and zoning By-law amendments to facilitate any of the above must participate in the SMP. For new city buildings and retrofits projects, Policy Planning staff have included the need to plant pollinator species in the specifications; for new buildings it is encouraged that spaces for pollinator gardens and education programs be incorporated. For Streetscape Master Plans, the design of new parks and trails development, Policy Planning staff have also requested that areas be set aside to plant pollinator gardens.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

MicrosoftTeams-image (2).png

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)

2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, ON, L6A 1T1

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

York Region Food Network, local bank employees and residents from Mapleglen Residences.

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.

0.01

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).

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

Extract_30cw(2)0621_22ex_48.pdf

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

Nature Canada, local residents, Nature Conservancy Canada

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

https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/. The City is currently investigating the Bird Friendly City certification through Nature Canada. Staff have completed a baseline survey and are in the process of reaching out to community groups, residents and external agencies to develop a Vaughan Bird Team that will help implement actions in order to receive the certification. In June 2022, Council endorsed the Bird Friendly City certification and proclaimed World Migratory Bird Day annually. Staff anticipate submitting a formal application for certification by end of year 2022.

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?

York Region Food Network, two local business employees, Mapleglen Residences

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

323

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City Hall pollinator garden is located within a community garden. In 2019, an additional pollinator garden was planted at Vellore Park, a future location for a community garden. The City Hall community garden group actively maintains the pollinator garden on site and planted additional nectar producing plants in the garden in 2022. Sustainability staff are working on a Community Garden Strategy that will guide future expansion and current operations of our community gardens. Moving forward, all new community gardens will include a pollinator garden.

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.

unknown

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.

There are no formal removal programs, the City's Horticulture team removes anything invasive as they come across it. Typically, these species are garlic mustard, buckthorn suckers, knotweed. Invasive species removals also occur at a project scale, when new garden, shrub or tree plantings and/or clearing and safety work is planned. Additionally, the City's Forestry team is undertaking an Urban Forest Management Plan and Woodlot Management Strategy that will include recommendations and strategies for invasive species removal and management.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

6026-SNAP_Pollinator_Vaughan_Draft-36x24 Indigenous input.pdf

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

PollinatorsSignage_22x11 Draft.pdf

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

6

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Signs denote a pollinator garden and the reasoning behind why it is there including a link to vaughan.ca/environment for more information on pollinators. The Oakbank Pond, York Hill Park and BAYT signs are more detailed, providing more information on the importance of pollinators and pollinator gardens. The signs are currently being updated to include a land acknowledgement and Ojibway translation, attached are the DRAFT signs.

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?

none currently, still in progress

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.

A university student completing a term in the Policy Planning and Sustainability department is undertaking a review of City of Vaughan bylaws to determine what guidelines we have for native prairie and plant habitats and conducting a municipal scan to determine weed or mowing ordinances. This work is part of a larger project that would launch an education campaign to encourage residents to plant boulevard pollinator gardens. Target completion date is Q4 2023, if ordinances are required to be changed.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Council extract -Beautification Strategy 2.0.pdf

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

Vaughan citizens/public. 500 citizens visited the project page and 381 citizens completed a survey.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

2021. It is standard City practice to include native plants, shrubs and trees in City landscaping. In 2022, the City planted 22 sponsorship flower beds and 50 beds under the Beautification Strategy – these beds included pollinator-friendly plants, ornamental shrubs and some annuals. The City has a list of approved tree species for homeowners and contractors planting trees on private property. In addition, the Beautification Strategy was revised, and approved by Council in September 2021. The new strategy outlines the use of only native trees in plantings and converting medians and roundabouts to pollinator gardens.

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?

none

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.

2022. Sustainability staff are actively engaging City Project Mangers in the planning of various building upgrades, park revitalization plans and streetscape plans to encourage planting pollinator habitat. Additionally, Sustainability staff have provided the Parks Development team with recommendations for a pollinator seed mix to utilize in parks projects. For new city buildings and retrofits projects, Policy Planning staff have included the need to plant pollinator species in the specifications; for new buildings it is encouraged that spaces for pollinator gardens and education programs be incorporated.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

residents, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (treaty rights holder), Woodbridge Pollinator Group, York Region (upper tier municipality), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (local conservation authority), utility organizations, local environmental alliances, ratepayers associations

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.

Sustainability staff are working in collaboration with a Recreation staff member, whom is obtaining a Lean Green Belt certification, to develop a Pollinator Garden Best Practices document. This document will guide pollinator and monarch habitat building throughout the City. Through the Official Plan Review update project, City staff will be including language promoting the need for pollinator habitat enhancement in the Natural Heritage Network and promote Environmental Stewardship initiatives. Pollinator Garden Best Practices will be completed by Q1 2023, the OPR is still underway.

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

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

88-2008 COV Pesticide Bylaw.pdf

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

unknown

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.

2008.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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

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

Extract_21cw(1)0503_22ex_1 (1).pdf

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

neighbouring municipalities, BILD (building and land association), consultants, developers

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.

In June 2022, Council endorsed that Bird-Safe Design Standards (PDF) be a requirement for all new private and City-owned developments, through the Sustainability Metrics Program. The Bird-Safe Design Standards regulate interior and exterior lighting to reduce light pollution. Additionally, the City's Property Standards By-law states that light cannot spill out from property lines. The City's LED Streetlight retrofit program will see the installation of lights which are Dark Sky Compliant, assisting to reduce light pollution. To advance this action, a university student completing a term in the Policy Planning and Sustainability department is undergoing a municipal scan of bylaws to determine if there is a need to revise the City's bylaws to be more restrictive to address light pollution.

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)

Pollinator-friendly plants were planted in 50+ beds across the City in right of ways, most of them as entryway features. The City can provide locations upon request.

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

500

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

data still being obtained

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintenance occurs between 5-10 times per bed, per year and includes wedding, pruning, mulching and watering.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u612:v1.14.0.49966]