Town of Zionsville

Zionsville, IN

Mayor Emily Styron

Pledge Summary

Zionsville is a town of about 28,000 residents located in Central Indiana. Often called a town within a park, Zionsville has preserved over 500 acres of parks, most left in its natural habitats. Along with preserving and restoring our native wetlands, forest and prairie habitats, Mayor Styron has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other native pollinators by signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The Zionsville community looks forward to continuing to build native habitat throughout Zionsville.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing 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.
- 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.

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- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor John Stehr	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor John Stehr	2025	2/5/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Stehr	2024	1/31/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Emily Styron	2023	1/5/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Emily Styron	2022	2/1/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Emily Styron	2021	12/10/2020	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.).

6000

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.)

3000 youth 3000 adult

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.

216

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.

Carpenter Nature Preserve

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

No

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

Focus on sustainability and habitat restoration

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?

Local resources and partnerships

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

Our focus is on total habitat restoration and conservation. Monarch butterflies are only one part to that.

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.)

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

HOA parks flyer-Aug 2021-2.pdf

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

As part of our sustainability efforts we offered a webinar on native habitats within HOA in partnership with Hamilton County Soil and Water, Indiana Native Plant Society and Hamilton County Urban Conservation.

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.

Provided several zoom programs on backyard gardening for community groups.

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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.

Worked with INPS, Boone County Master Gardeners, and Southern Indiana Conservation Invasive Management SICIM to begin the process of creating a CISMA in our county for invasive plant removal and native habitat restoration.

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

Worked with INPS, Boone County Master Gardeners, and Southern Indiana Conservation Invasive Management SICIM to begin the process of creating a CISMA in our county for invasive plant removal and native habitat restoration.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

HOA parks flyer-Aug 2021-2.pdf

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

HOA Resources.2021.pdf

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

HOA Resources.pdf

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

See attached

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

See attached

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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)

Seed Swap

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

17

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

Partnered with our local library, Library also started a seed library in 2021

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?

Habitat CPR

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

We have been a Community Wildlife Habitat through NWF for 20 years now.

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.

0

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

Did not do

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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0

What species were collected or propagated?

10

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

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

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

Not an event. This is a yearly effort with our parks in collecting milkweed seed, propagating and using for restoration or as giveaways during programs.

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)

Did not do this year

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

0

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.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Did not do this year

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).

0

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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.

Did not do this year

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.

60 acres

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.

Removal of invasive species along 5 acres of our rail trail. Weed wrangle events (6 in total) to remove garlic mustard, honeysuckle and other invasives from our parks. See Below: April 17 – Pull for Parks Starkey Nature Park, 667 Sugarbush Drive 27 attendees Garlic Mustard No plantings done April 18 – Pull for Parks Zion Nature Sanctuary, 690 Beech Street 6 attendees Garlic Mustard No plantings done April 22 – Pull for Parks Creekside Nature Park, 11001 E Sycamore Street 29 attendees Garlic Mustard No plantings done April 24 – Pull for Parks Zion Nature Sanctuary, 690 Beech Street 16 attendees Garlic Mustard No plantings done November 6 – Honeysuckle Removal Carter Station Park, 4643 Pebblepoint Pass 27 attendees Honeysuckle, autumn olive, burning bush, pear No plantings done November 23 – Honeysuckle Removal Creekside Nature Park, 11001 E Sycamore Street 23 attendees Honeysuckle, pear No plantings done

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