Town of Zionsville

Zionsville, IN

Mayor Emily Styron

Pledge Summary

Zionsville is a town of about 30,000 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 2022

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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Systems Change

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- 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 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.).

1200

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, 1000 adults

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.

.25

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.

Common areas of parks

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

We are not specificially. All of our programs, parks and events are inclusive and open to anyone in or outside of our community.

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

Zionsville has a long tradition of supporting native habitat and environment. We have over 500 acres in parkland, most of which is kept in natural and restored habitats. The pledge fits well with what we have done over the past 25+ years.

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?

Unfamiliar with what resources are available.

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

This year we celebrated 20 years for our Nature Center with a butterfly trail art exhibit and several large environmental ed programs. More details listed in action items.

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.)

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

We held several programs both in-person and virtual with regards to native habitat restoration. Including Certified Wildlife Habitat workshop, a presentation by Indiana Wildlife Federation on invasive plants, and a webinar on selecting native plants for home landscapes. That webinar can be viewed here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjaJ7rGsUfI

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.

We are working with Boone County Master Gardeners on formation of a CISMA and development of informational materials and programs to promote native habitats within our county.

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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.

Zionsville Parks and Recreation Zionsville Golf Course

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

We started seed collections this fall, collecting milkweed as well as other native species and starting plugs for use in our parks in 2023. We also started the process for restoring .25 acres of habitat in our Starkey Park with native meadow seed. in 2023 we will be converting 2 acres of our golf course to native greens.

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.

Boone County Master Gardeners State of Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management Zionsville Parks and Recreation Boone County Solid Waste Management Boone County Soil and Water Conservation Purdue Extension

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

We are working on the development of a CISMA for our county that will focus on invasive management and native habitat restoration.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Z Butterfly Trail 2022 single pages.pdf

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

Zionsville Parks and Recreation, SullivanMunce Cultural Center, Zionsville Library

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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).

500

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).

In celebration of our Leadership Circle status of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and 20 years for our nature center we held an inaugural butterfly trail throughout our Town. 8 separate art installations were placed around town. All butterfly wings were painted by local artists and their art statements were listed as a part of the trail. The trail was up June - July, 2022

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)

Greenfest we gave away 200 swamp milkweed plants to attendees

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

320

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

Boone County Master Gardeners, Indiana Native Plant Society, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Zionsville Parks Foundation, Zionsville Library, State of Indiana Cooperative Invasive Management to name just a few of the 25 organizations

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

10

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed, joe pye, wild senna, and various others

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

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

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

We held a seed collection event to harvest native plant seeds from our park prairies for use in restoration.

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.

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

Zionsville Habitat CPR team and Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department

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

Have been Certified Community Wildlife Habitat since 2000

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

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

weed wrangle volunteer.jpg

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

weed wrangle.jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

40

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.

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We held 10 public weed wrangles with over 500 volunteers to remove garlic mustard, honeysuckle, autumn olive, privet, burning bush and callery pear from multiple Zionsville Parks.

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?

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

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.

Working on 2023-2027 Park Master Plan which will include areas of restoration, as well as acquiring 215 acres for Carpenter Preserve Nature Park. Plan will be available in 2023.

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 accomplish in 2022

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 accomplish in 2022

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