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 2023

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 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.
- 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).

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- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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.).

10000

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.)

4,000 youth and 6,000 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.

4

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.

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rights of way, parks, common areas, golf courses, residences

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

Restoration efforts are accessible to all, park programming and social media are accessible to all. Zionsville has a very small population of marginalized communities but we try to provide opportunities that would impact those as well as other community members.

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?

Have not received any resources in 2023 - including no email information. Please verify that our coordinator is still on your list mmurdock@zionsville-in.gov

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

Town of Zionsville focuses on ecosystems and communities rather than single species and promoting diversity within our parks and our restoration efforts

Selected Action Items

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.

Engaged with Zionsville Parks Foundation, Indiana Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners of Boone County to promote native plants and milkweeds in local gardens and parks on April 22.

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.

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

Northern Extension Planting.jpg

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

Northern Extension Planting2.jpg

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation, ARC of Greater Boone County, Boone County Master Gardeners

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

Identified areas within parks to increase native plantings including Zionsville Golf Course and the northern extension of the rail trail.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Greenfest Flyer 2023.pdf

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

150 butterfly weed plants given at Zionsville Greenfest

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

420

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

Indiana Native Plant Society, Zionsville Parks Foundation

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

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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)

Zionsville Golf Course, 10799 E 550 S

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation, EcoLogic, Duke Energy

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.

2

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)

Zionsville has been a Certified Wildlife Habitat Community for over 20+ years. We just recertified for 2024.

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

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

Z-CAP 2023-progress-6b.pdf

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

Climate Action Planning Committee

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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 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.

12/13/2023

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

The Town just released their Climate Action Plan progress report which shows what has been accomplished to date but it also provides information on where the CAP will focus for the next 3 years.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

3

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

One sign is located at the new habitat restoration at Zionsville Golf Course and the other two signs are replacing older signs at Mulberry Fields Park

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.

Volunteer Work(2).jpg

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

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100

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.

2023 - 8 weed wrangles were held within Zionsville Parks focusing on removing garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and other woody species like callery pear, multiflora rose and burning bush. Over 122 volunteers participated

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)

Nature Connections

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)

2

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

Eagle Elementary Trailside Elementary

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

Before assessments, after assessments, three programs, off-site program and service date.

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).

175 students, 8 educators

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation, Zionsville Community Schools

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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.

.5

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

Plantings were done on Zionsville Parks and Recreation property

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

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

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

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

Milkweed was planted on Northern Expansion of the Big-4 Rail Trail along E 400 S near S 800 E Milkweed was planted around pond at Overley-Worman Park, 6040 Godello Circle Milkweed and other pollinator plants were planted at Zionsville Golf Course, 10799 E 550 S

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

300

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.

4

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Zionsville golf course planting maintained by Ecologic in 2023 - 2024 Other plantings maintained by Zionsville Parks and Recreation staff

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Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

13

What species were collected or propagated?

Various native species including common milkweed, swamp milkweed, butterflyweed and honeyvine

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.

Annual Seed Swap and collection in the fall, provided information on winter sowing to attendees. Seed collected are distributed within Zionsville Parks Little Free Seed Library

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.

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

Carpenter Fall-12.jpg

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

Carpenter Fall-10.jpg

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

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation EcoLogic Indiana DNR Indiana Nature Conservancy Zionsville Parks and Recreation Town of Zionsville Stantec

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

Through the collaboration and joint efforts of multiple entities the Town of Zionsville was able to purchase 215 acres which was once Wolf Run Golf Course to become the Carpenter Nature Preserve. Restoration has already begun with native plantings. Future work includes watershed restoration by Indiana DNR and EcoLogic. The park will open to the public in 2025. Story of the park can be found at this link https://youtu.be/fKONfcX5qlM?si=eLEb9iV9mjVg3ksU

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.

Naturalist Notes.pdf

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

Zionsville Nature Center social media presence including posts on milkweed and milkweed species including Monarchs. Active by Nature quarterly activity guide has a Naturalist Notes section.

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.

IMG_7957.JPG

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

IMG_7969.JPG

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

IMG_7980.JPG

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

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

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).

3500

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).

Zionsville Butterfly Trail incorporated art work into large 4' butterfly wings. Each artist (8 total) had an artist statement. The trail allowed community members to travel from park to park and explore the natural habitats. Many art statements had a natural or native plant component to them.

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