Town of Zionsville

Zionsville, IN

Mayor John Stehr

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 700 acres of parks, most left in its natural habitats. Along with preserving and restoring our native wetlands, forest and prairie habitats, Mayor Stehr 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 2024

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 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).
- 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

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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

- 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.

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.).

5500

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.)

2000

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.

8.25

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared

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public spaces, and more.

Along our rail trail

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

Our parks and restoration locations are open to all

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

Natural areas and habitat restoration are an important mission of our parks department.

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 used any of the Mayors Monarch resources. Do not receive the emails or information - not sure why.

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

Our conservation efforts are the same each year, with a focus on environmental education programming, habitat restoration and invasive managment. We do not focus on one particular species, but look at our ecosystems as a whole and community.

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.

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

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

In partnership with our Zionsville Parks Foundation and Boone County Master Gardeners we offer native plant giveaways at several events and farmer's markets. That information is shared on social 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.

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

Turkey Foot Native Plant Garden.jpg

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

Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department Zionsville Department of Public Works Boone County Invasive Cooperative Zionsville Parks Foundation

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

Working together we developed several areas of parkland and right of way into native habitats rather than traditional mowing including the restoration of 8.25 acres along our Big-4 Rail Trail that was formerly farmland and development of a native garden at the entrance to our Turkeyfoot Nature Park.

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.

Greenfest 2024.jpg

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

Boone County Master Gardeners Indiana Native Plant Society Zionsville Parks Foundation Central Indiana Land Trust Xerces Society of Indiana EcoLogic Boone County Invasives Cooperative

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

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All participated in our annual Greenfest event, highlighting their work and conservation efforts for pollinators, monarchs and native plants, etc.

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 guide-2024-FOR ISSUU.pdf

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation and Discover Boone County

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).

1000

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 featured 8 butterfly wings, painted by local artists and students throughout Zionsville from June - August 2024

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)

150

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

400

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed

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

NA

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

Naturalists and Natural Resources collected milkweed seed for use in habitat restoration as well as for our 3rd Grade connections program, where students help remove invasive garlic mustard as well as plant milkweed at Zion Nature Sanctuary and Overley-Worman Park

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

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

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation - was planted in 2023, this year was maintaining

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.

.8

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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Document.jpg

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

Several locations along our Big-4 Rail Trail including near along the intersection of Whitestown Road and Pleasant View, near Pine Street and along the newer section of trail on E 400 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.

3

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Watering first year of planting, mapping location to prevent mowing and then observation and occasional watering in year 2.

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)

Indiana Master Naturalist, Junior Indiana Master Naturalist, 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)

3

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

Eagle Elementary Pleasant View Elementary Trailside Elementary

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

Naturalist led programming

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).

400 students, 40 educators

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

Zionsville Parks Foundation, Indiana DNR

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.

2

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

Monitoring and removal of invasives as needed

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.

15

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.

Each of our parks has a management plan for removal of invasives (honeysuckle, autumn olive, bittersweet, burning bush, etc) as well as restoration and monitoring. Currently we are actively restoring or monitoring 10 locations within our parks department. Invasives are removed by pulling or cutting and then foliage or spot treating with appropriate herbicide. Monitoring may require additional folar applications as necessary. Then areas are restored with either an understory (buttonbush, chokecherry) or native trees or a appropriate seed mix for forest or prairie.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

Educational sign is located by Zionsville Golf Course prairie pollinator restoration project

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?

NA

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

We have been a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat ongoing https://www.zionsville-in.gov/744/Community-Wildlife-Habitat

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

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

Zionsville Tree Board, Boone County Invasive Cooperative, SICIM

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.

Zionsville is working on updating its ordinances and comprehensive plan. That plan will include information on native trees and plants, lists of invasive species as well as guidelines for water quality, stormwater, habitat protection and natural aesthetics. https://www.uniquelyzionsville.com/

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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.

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

Stantec, HWC Engineering, DPW, Planning commission, among many others

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.

This will be a part of the Comprehensive plan and updated ordinances. https://www.uniquelyzionsville.com/ ALL parks and recreation projects since 2020 have only allowed for the planting of native species.

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