Lanark County

County of Lanark, ON

Warden Christa Lowry

Pledge Summary

Lanark County is a rural community west of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Warden Lowry of Lanark County and County Council has committed to preserving habitat for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Warden Toby Randell	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Warden Steve Fournier	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle
Warden Peter McLaren	2023	3/1/2023	Leadership Circle
Warden John Fenik	2022	3/25/2022	Leadership Circle
Warden Christa Lowry	2021	4/8/2021	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.).

60

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.)

0 youth and 60 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.

1

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.

Rights-of-way including roadsides and trails, and on county-owned property

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

Providing free native pollinator-friendly seed to residents

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

Our main motivation for the taking the pledge is our efforts to incorporate pollinator habitat in long-term vegetation management goals

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

We use the Rights-of-Way as Pollinator Habitat Working Group's pollinator habitat scorecard to assess pollinator habitat on roadsides. More resources are needed to sway public perception of "messy looking" pollinator habitat.

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

Since 2016, we've reduced our herbicide usage by 92%

Selected Action Items

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.

Lanark County staff and the Canadian Wildlife Federation participated.

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

Lanark County has partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). We work with CWF to promote their Grow it! Don't mow it! campaign to encourage residents to mow less. We have reduced mowing practices to allow for more naturalization in the roadsides. We also time our mowing to avoid peak bloom times for pollinator supportive plants. On our trail this year we waited until late September before mowing and avoided mowing large patches of wildflowers and milkweed.

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.

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

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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)

Our demonstration gardens are on Lanark County's property that includes administration offices, long-term care home, and public trails. Location: 99 Christie Lake Road, Perth, ON, Canada

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

None - completed by public works staff

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

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)

Lanark County planted milkweed and pollinator-friendly plants in roadside and trail rights-of-way across the county. Specifically, we planted at 4 locations along the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, CR19 Bennett Lake Road, CR12 McDonalds Corners Road, and on CR21 Elm Grove Road.

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

2100

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

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of a football field.

0.96

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Staff will be returning in the spring to reassess the patches and provide maintenance as needed such as watering, mulching, replanting, cutting, etc.

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).

3

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

None - completed by public works staff

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Mission Monarch - County staff conducted milkweed surveys looking for Monarch eggs and caterpillars. Data was uploaded to the Mission Monarch website: https://www.mission-monarch.org/

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.

1660

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.

Lanark County has a roadside control program for wild parsnip, which includes spot spraying a selective herbicide and hand removals by staff and volunteers. Since 2016 we've reduced our herbicide usage by 92% and increased our hand control efforts to cover nearly 50% of all roadsides. Spot targeted spraying and hand control allow other wildflowers in the roadsides to grow, while removing the invasive. During hand control

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measures, staff are provided native wildflower seed to fill in the gaps created by wild parsnip removal.

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?

Pollinator Partnership Canada and Cain Vegetation Inc.

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.

Adopted with the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan in 2016 available on our website: https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/roads-trails-and-transit/vegetation-management-plan.aspx

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?

Canadian Wildlife Federation

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.

November 19th 2021 - finished seeding a pollinator patch on county property. Report to council: https://lanarkcounty.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=1106

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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?

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The Integrated Vegetation Management Plan was adopted in 2016 that incorporates pollinator habitat restoration. PDF on our website: https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/roads-trails-and-transit/vegetation-management-plan.aspx

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

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

Pollinator Partnership Canada and Cain Vegetation Inc.

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.

The Integrated Vegetation Management Plan was adopted in 2016 that incorporates an integrated approach to invasive plant control such as reducing herbicides and using bee safe products. PDF on our website: https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/roads-trails-and-transit/vegetation-management-plan.aspx

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