Lanark County

County of Lanark, ON

Warden Peter McLaren

Pledge Summary

Lanark County is a rural community west of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Lanark County Warden Peter McLaren committed to preserving habitat for the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators in 2023 by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Lanark County has taken the Mayors' Monarch Pledge since 2019 and continues to promote and restore pollinator habitat on rights-of-ways, county land, and within the community.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species’ need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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.

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).
- 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.

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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
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.).

865

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.)

Youth:600, Adults:265

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.

0.71

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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Three Lanark County elementary schools - Glen Tay, The Stewart School, and Queen Elizabeth Elementary School. Right-of-ways including roadsides and trails 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?

We host free native pollinator seed giveaways to residents of Lanark County. Our two new pollinator patches are also located alongside an accessible community trail.

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

Our main motivation for taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is to incorporate pollinator habitat in our long-term vegetation management goals. Creating pollinator habitat is also listed as a nature-based climate solution in our recently approved climate action plan.

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?

We use the Rights-of-Way as Pollinator Habitat Working Group's pollinator habitat scorecard to assess pollinator habitat on roadsides. When developing our school pollinator program, we found use of the Canadian Wildlife Federation's WILD Spaces program and the National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats Planning Guide. More resources are needed to sway public perception of "messy looking" pollinator habitat. In addition, more learning resources for councillors and citizens to promote the importance of pollinators and support political buy-in.

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

Since 2016, there has been a 92% reduction in herbicide use, with no boom spray occurring since 2019. As a result, we have increased the amount of right-of-way that is managed manually by staff. This year, 66% or 369 km of roadsides were controlled by hand.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

June 21st, 2023

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Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayors Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2023.pdf

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 use social media (Facebook) and our website to promote pollinator friendly practices and share information for residents. We have created print resources outlining our roadside restoration practices to distribute at community events. We also regularly distribute bags of our native seed mix at community events.

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 Public Works department, Lanark County Housing Corporation, and the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

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

We work with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to promote their Grow it! Don't mow it! campaign to encourage residents to mow less. We also collaborated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to adapt our mowing schedule for our community trails to preserve pollinator habitat and reduce the spread of noxious and invasive plants. As part of our Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, we continue the changes made in 2016 to adjust the timing, frequency, and width of mowing along all County roads. We have initiated discussions with the Lanark County Housing Corporation (Social Housing) to convert maintained lawns to pollinator habitat. This initiative will begin in 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)

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We gave away our native seed mix at 4 events this year. The largest event that we hosted was our Tree Giveaway. Tree Giveaway- (130 bags)- total of 65 cups of seed, Milkweed Seed Collection (20 bags)- total 10 cups of seed, Earth Day (30 bags) - total 30 cups of seed, Harvest Fest (30 bags)- total 15 cups of seed, Climate Action Plan Giveaway- total 1 ½ cups of seed

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

300

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

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Lanark County Councilors, Lanark County Staff

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

20

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed

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

Milkweed Seed Collection Event- Canadian Wildlife Federation, Lanark County Staff (CAO)

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

Members of the community, Adopt-A-Road program, and County councilors were invited to the Lanark County Administration building to collect milkweed seeds to plant and bring home. Participants were shown how to collect the seeds sustainably and based on the appropriate ripeness of the pods. A site was prepped and sowed at the event to show participants best growing practices. Restoration staff from the Canadian Wildlife Federation provided knowledgeable insight to questions asked by participants. Refreshments and a light fair were provided, and participants were able to take home our native seed mix, milkweed seeds collected, and print resources from Lanark County and CWF.

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

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coordinates, if possible)

In 2023, we planted 2 pollinator gardens alongside the accessible Tay Valley Pathway beside the Lanark Lodge Long Term Care building and beside the Public Works garage. The pathway is located adjacent to multiple open fields with an abundance of common milkweed. These gardens were planted using native pollinator friendly species and some conventional garden practices for aesthetics (e.g., following a design/pattern, application of mulch). As these gardens have a more structured appearance, they might be more attractive to those that prefer a kept appearance in their garden. This can help encourage people to plant pollinator gardens that suit their yard. We also continue to maintain two demonstration pollinator gardens that were planted in 2017 along the Tay Valley Pathway, as well as two restoration projects. These demonstration gardens are locations at 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?

The David Suzuki Butterfly Way Rangers

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

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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

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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 95% and increased our hand control efforts to cover nearly 60% of all roadsides. Spot targeted spraying and hand control allow other wildflowers in the roadsides to grow, while removing the invasive. During hand control measures, staff are provided native wildflower seed to fill in the gaps created by wild parsnip removal. Along County roads, staff also control invasive Phragmites, dog strangling vine, and Japanese knotweed following their best management practices as outlined by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council. Staff also controlled wild parsnip and wild chervil along the portions of the Tay Havelock Trail and the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail that travel through Lanark County.

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, Canadian Wildlife Federation 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.

https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/doing-business/resources/documents/Lanark-IPM-Revised-Progam-2022-Final-8-15-22.pdf

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

N/A

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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?

We have worked with community groups to incorporate nature-based climate solutions in the Climate Action Plan. The following organizations were engaged, and their input was incorporated into our Climate Action Plan. Climate Network Lanark, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority,

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.

Final draft of the Climate Action Plan was approved by County Council on November 8.

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

N/A

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.

https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/roads-trails-and-transit/resources/Lanark-IPM-Revised-Progam-2022-Final.pdf

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

N/A

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)

Lanark County staff controlled noxious and invasive weeds by hand on 369 km of our county road system. At the time of vegetation management, these roadsides are seeded with our native wildflower seed mix. 16kg of native pollinator seed mix were planted in 2023 (contains common and swamp milkweed)

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

16

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.

1092

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Annual monitoring for invasive/noxious weeds, hand removal as needed to eradicate these invasive/noxious weeds to allow native species to thrive.

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?

Lanark County Housing Corporation

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

In Progress

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

Working with the Lanark County Housing Corporation to identify under utilized areas, ideal for pollinator habitat conversion on social housing properties.

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).

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

School Pollinator Habitat- Lanark County.pdf

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)

This year Lanark County staff partnered with 3 elementary schools to create pollinator habitats on school property. This project is currently called Lanark County School Pollinator Habitat Project.

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.

Glen Tay Public School, The Stewart School, Queen Elizabeth School

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

Educators were provided with a guide that outlined various resources from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, along with some ideas on how to make their habitat most valuable to pollinators. We also created a resource outlining all these opportunities (too large to attach to this)

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).

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600- Students, 30 Educators

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

N/A

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.

0.01

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

The maintenance schedule has been outlined to do one cut back per season (recommended in early to mid-spring), during the growth of the pollinator habitat teachers are also recommended to monitor for noxious and invasive weeds.

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