Lanark County

County of Lanark, ON

Warden Toby Randell

Pledge Summary

Lanark County, located in rural Eastern Ontario, is home to approximately 75,000 residents and is celebrated for its stunning natural landscapes, charming small towns, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant maple syrup industry. Lanark County has shown a strong commitment to pollinator habitat conservation by promoting the restoration of native habitats, encouraging biodiversity, and involving the community in various conservation efforts. More specifically, Lanark County has initiated roadside pollinator habitat restoration efforts, focusing on transforming roadside areas into native meadow habitats to support pollinators and enhance local biodiversity. Through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, this year Lanark County is committing to engaging the community in habitat conservation for monarch butterflies by raising public awareness, encouraging community participation, and collaborating with municipal departments to create and maintain habitats. Additionally, the County aims to foster a supportive environment through community-driven initiatives and educational efforts.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- 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.

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- 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
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.).

250

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

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.

0.86

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 adjacent to road and recreational trail.

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

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We host free native pollinator seed giveaways to residents of Lanark County. Our two Butterflyway Rangers' 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 Lanark County's 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 various resources to support our pollinator habitat restoration projects, including, but not limited to the Rights-of-Way as Pollinator Habitat Working Group's pollinator habitat scorecard to assess pollinator habitat on roadsides; Xerces' Organic Site Preparation for Wildflower Establishment guide; and the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Managing Rights-of-Way for Pollinator: A Practical Guide for Managers.

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

We continue to support monarch butterfly conservation efforts through community networks, habitat restoration projects and vegetation management practices.

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 use social media and our website to promote pollinator friendly practices and share information to 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 and seeding instructions at community events, including local festivals, farmers markets, and tree seedling giveaways.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain

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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, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, ALUS Mississippi-Rideau.

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

We collaborate with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to share best practices regarding pollinator habitat restoration and invasive species management within our rights-of-way. In 2025, we joined the CWF's Eastern Ontario Native Seed Partnership to increase access to local native seed. We also partnered with the CWF to assist with the purchase of a native seed drill that will be available for use in 2026. 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 work with ALUS Mississippi-Rideau to provide them with funding, seed, and recommendations to advance their pollinator habitat restoration projects on marginal farmland.

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)

We gave away approximately 250 native seed packets at our fall tree seedling giveaway.

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

250

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

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Harbers Greenhouses and Forestry, Lanark County Councilors and staff.

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)

Lanark County has 2 demonstration gardens and 2 Butterflyway Rangers gardens located alongside the accessible Tay River Pathway at 99 Christie Lake Road, Perth ON, Canada.

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The pathway is located adjacent to multiple open fields with an abundance of common milkweed. We also have 2 larger-scale restoration projects in the fields adjacent to the Tay River Pathway that were created in 2018.

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

The David Suzuki Butterfly Way Rangers, the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

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

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 the use of selective herbicide and hand removals by staff and volunteers. Spot targeted spraying and hand control allow other wildflowers in the roadsides to grow, while removing the invasive species. 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 pass through Lanark County.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2

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

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The signs are located at the Butterflyway Rangers projects and explain the purpose of create pollinator habitat.

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, 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.

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

Lanark County created a new pollinator patch alongside County Road 29 and the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail.

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.

0.86 acres of right-of-way in 2025. Seeded with approximately 2.5kg of native wildflower seed.

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Pollinator habitat restoration patches are monitored and maintained throughout the summer months. Hand removal and/or herbicide are used to control invasive/noxious weeds as needed.

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?

NA

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

NA - action not completed in 2025.

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:

NA - action not completed in 2025. Attached proclamation from 2023.

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

NA

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2023.pdf

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