The Regional Municipality of York

York Region (No Specified City), ON

Regional Chair for The Regional Municipality of York Eric Jolliffe

Pledge Summary

The Regional Municipality of York, also called York Region, is a regional municipality in Southern Ontario, Canada, between Lake Simcoe and Toronto. Many York Region Greening Strategy programs and projects, and other Regional initiatives support pollinator habitat. York Region is keen on engaging with community groups through varies of program, also actively collaborate with private landowners and conservation and municipal partners.

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Regional Chair for the Regional Municipality of York Eric Jolliffe	2025	3/31/2025	Signatories
Regional Chair for The Regional Municipality of York Eric Jolliffe	2024	3/11/2024	Signatories
Chairman Wayne Emmerson	2023	3/13/2023	Signatories
Director of Environmental Promotion and Protection Laura McDowell	2022	2/24/2022	Signatories
Director of Environmental Promotion and Protection Laura McDowell	2021	4/9/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

46820

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.

26.56

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.

Habitat was created as part of a controlled burn at a York Regional Forest tract. Habitat is also created as part of Greening Action Partnership Funding through tree, shrub and pollinator planting in community gardens at schools, residential areas and shared public parks.

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

York Region is home to nearly 1.2 million people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, including more than 230 distinct ethnic groups. York Region is committed to a welcoming and inclusive environment that recognizes and celebrates all dimensions of diversity. These factors are integrated into our communication plans and program offerings. This includes funding to marginalized communities that may not be able to partake including school groups, volunteer organizations and First Nation communities.

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

York Region's Greening Strategy delivers on the ground action to support a sustainable natural environment. Many York Region Greening Strategy programs and projects, and other Regional initiatives support pollinator habitat. We appreciate the regular emails, and sharing of resources and information about the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This pledge allows us to quantify our commitments under our Greening Strategy and allows us to receive recognition for the work that is being done in the communities of York Region.

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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 would like to continue having the opportunities to utilize shared resources and information from the National Wildlife Federation. We would benefit from addition of translated resources or recommendations for communicating to a diverse community. Access to stock photographs of pollinator species in our Region may also be useful for campaigns and promotion of the program.

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

In 2024, we hosted a workshop for York Region staff members who engage in pollinator projects. The goal was to find out what others are doing and determine ways in which we could align our efforts. In 2025, we will develop a plan to implement what was learned at the workshop to improve our efforts across York Region on pollinator projects and opportunities.

Selected Action Items

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)

892 native trees and shrubs and 418 wildflower kits. Trees included White Pine, Sugar Maple, White Birch, Hackberry, Black Cherry, Red Oak and Basswood. Shrubs included Red Osier Dogwood, Staghorn Sumac, Ninebark and Black Elderberry.

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

599

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

Forests Ontario

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.)

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

2024 Mayors Monarch Pledge Program Stats.pdf

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

e-newsletter, printed materials, social media, educational public events, pollinator seed packets provided as a free giveaway to residents at our events

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.

Controled Burn Information.JPG

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

8.94 acres

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.

Controlled burn of grassland: 7 acres Common burdock manually controlled: 0.24 acres Common burdock and Canada thistle chemically controlled: 0.51 acres Hand weeded invasive species: : 1.19 acres

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