Town of Whitby

Whitby, ON

Mayor Elizabeth Roy

Pledge Summary

Established in 1855, the Town of Whitby is situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, 30 km east of Toronto. The Town maintains 125 parks with 950 acres of active parkland, over 1000 acres of passive open space, and approximately 75 kilometres of trails. The estimated population is 138,300 and Durham Region predicts the population of Whitby will be approximately 200,000 by 2033. The Town of Whitby's mission to create and maintain a sustainable, healthy, and safe community/environment can be achieved, in part, through the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of the Town's green infrastructure. A healthy habitat for pollinators is an integral component of the municipality.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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

- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Elizabeth Roy	2026	1/28/2026	
Mayor Elizabeth Roy	2025	3/3/2025	Signatories
Mayor Elizabeth Roy	2024	2/23/2024	Signatories
Mayor Elizabeth Roy	2023	4/25/2023	Signatories

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Mayor Don Mitchell	2021	12/16/2020	Signatories

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.).

25

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 25 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.

1.6

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.

Community Parks and promoting residents to to plant native wildflowers suitable for monarchs in their yards

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

We are not at this time, but it is something we be considering in our 2024 efforts.

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

To support our overall commitment to Sustainability and specific initiatives including, Bee City of Canada and Tree City of the World.

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?

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The one on one meeting with the National Wildlife Federation Staff that the Town had in spring of 2023 was extremely helpful, in terms of completing our pledge and understanding what our actions could look like for 2023. A general plan/guidance on how to expand equitable engagement would be extremely helpful.

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

Our efforts focused on habitat creation through, a staff planting event of native plants at a local community park and through handing out native flower seeds to residents.

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.

Pollinator Social Media Post 1.png

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

Pollinator Social Media Post 2.png

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

Pollinator Social Media Post 3.png

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

Pollinator Social Media Post 4.png

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

In celebration of pollinators we conducted public communication to raise awareness about the benefit of pollinators and what residents can do to create more habitat. Communication efforts consisted of social media posts on Twitter and Facebook and and a News story published on the Town of Whitby website (note the link to the news story is no longer live).

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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.

0.07

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.

The main invasive species removal program that occurred in 2023 was the LALCIDE CHONDRO pilot program on small test plots focusing on removing European buckthorn. Lalcide Chondro is a biological herbicide used to inhibit resprouting and regrowth from the cut stumps of alders, trembling aspen, red oak, ironwood, white birch, sugar maple, and choke cherry, and for cut and girdled stumps of glossy and European buckthorn. The active ingredient in LALCIDE CHONDRO is Chondrostereum purpureum, a naturally occurring fungal plant pathogen that infects living plant tissue, eventually killing it, while the fungus continues to develop. LALCIDE CHONDRO represents a more environmentally sensitive option and may be useful when chemical herbicides are unsuitable. In 2023, invasive species were removed at Palmerston Park behind Rosewood Ct, the Biodiversity Trail near Cochrane Street and at the Operations Centre at 333 McKinney along the fence line. The area at Palmerston Park was originally 90% ash and the ash trees were removed a few years ago during the EAB program. It was meant to be replanted during that time, we had site visits with CLOCA, but we did not have the operational requirements. Since that time, the area became overrun with European buckthorn. We have started on the West side of the pathway clearing the buckthorn and applying the Lalcide Chondro. The area will be replanted with native species that will support pollinators next Spring.

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

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

Seeds for Bees.png

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

Bee City Canada - Native Plant Habitat Grant. Internal Town of Whitby Departments - Seeds for Bees Native Plant Nursery

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

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In progress

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

Seeds for Bees Native Plant Nursery In 2023, Town staff planted the second crop of nursery native plants across the community, which included 40 flats of various native flowers (including milkweed) and grasses. The nursery was established in 2021 by Town Staff, who competed for a small amount of funding to initiate innovative ideas aligned with the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. This program is to be continued in 2024 and to be ongoing to increase the percentage of native plants in city landscaping.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator Garden Sign.png

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

LOW Darren Park 2017-04-10.pdf

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

Des Newman WhitBEE Park - Sign.jpg

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

3

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

The Town has an interactive map were residents can find all parks with pollinator gardens - https://www.whitby.ca/en/play/parks.aspx. We will be working on expanding educational signage at these parks. We currently have an educational sign installed out sign of Town Hall at the Town's Serenity Pollinator Garden. This sign lists the pollinator friendly plants in the garden, indicates what is pollination, the importance of pollinators and provides common pollinators. There is another sign located at Des Newman WhitBEE Park installed this year that talks about food for pollinators. There is also a sign at Darren Park that discusses the native species conservation project and the long-term goal of the project, which is to promote a meadow habitat where mountain-mint and native plant communities can thrive and support a healthy ecosystem, including pollinator communities of bees and butterflies.

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