Town of Southampton

Southampton, MA

Chair, Selectboard Maureen Groden

Pledge Summary

Southampton is a small, rural town of approximately 6,000 people in Western Massachusetts that is actively committed to preserving its open space and conservation areas. Residents value the town's agricultural heritage, its scenic areas and hiking trails. Community groups are supporting the Selectboard's signing of the Pledge and will expand their efforts to create conditions favorable to the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.
- 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.
- 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
Select Board Chair Christine Fowles	2024	3/30/2024	
Select Board Chair Christine Fowles	2023	3/3/2023	Signatories
Select Board Chair Christine Fowles	2022	4/6/2022	Signatories

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Chair, Selectboard Maureen Groden	2021	4/18/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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

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

Southampton is a rural town and appreciates the importance of open space and nature.

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 are just getting going on the project with organizing and education this year but lots of interest to.

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.).

50

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.

The plan is to create a pollinator demonstration garden on town's protected watershed property near the elementary school and along a very popular walking route. Other small sites, such as the hill behind the Church used this year, and other small empty lots owned by the town are being considered for the spring. Education encouraging homeowners to plant pollinators has begun.

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

None as yet given our demographic.

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

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none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

approximately 15 youth and 30 adults actively engaged, hard to estimate reach this first year.

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

we've spent time in 4 volunteer town committees discussing and planning for next year's efforts. more residents aware of and interested in planting milkweed and/or butterfly weed and in raising and releasing monarchs. School kids engaged in coloring large paper butterflies for a display at the annual Celebrate Southampton event in the town park in August.

Selected Action Items

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?

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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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:

April 18, 2021

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

Earth Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Earth-Day-Proclamation.pdf

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

0

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

This did not materialize as planned this year but will be undertaken in spring 2022.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

just informal give-aways among a few interested neighbors--no organized event was able to happen this year.

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.

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

Initial conversations with the Highway Department and the Parks Commission. No commitment or plan enacted this year--will keep pursuing.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Parks Commission

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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)

Initial demonstration pollinator pallet garden installed on empty hillside behind the church in the center of town. This supported annuals - flowers, herbs and vegetables - and harvest supplied to the community pantry. Extensive planning has occurred via the Open Space Committee in discussion with the Water Commission to dedicate a portion of watershed protected lot for a more 'formal' pollinator garden with signage next spring. This is located near the primary school and alongside an active walking route.

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

Open Space Committee, Water Commission

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.

0.1

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.

cannot say, small areas at various trailheads.

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.

Member of the Conservation Commission publicize the need to control/remove invasive species on various conservation lands/hiking trails in town. They themselves actively do this as well as organize work-days for volunteers to help in this effort. They also engaged in a significant educational effort--developing Wanted Posters (see photos below) to post at certain trails and participated at the annual Celebrate Southampton event in August--explaining the issues with invasive species like multi-flora rose and bittersweet among others. Invasives are are cut to the ground using weed whackers or clippers (carbohydrate deprivation).

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

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