Town of Southampton

Southampton, MA

Select Board Chair Christine Fowles

Pledge Summary

Southampton is a small, rural town of approximately 6,200 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 Select Board'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 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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

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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.).

52

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.)

12 youth and 40 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.

.03

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.

at a local park and at three residential spaces currently but reclaiming a 0.2 acre, town-owned, overgrown and vacant parcel in the center of town, a portion of which will be for planting in the spring.

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

nothing happening here yet--being a small rural town, we are not a very diverse community. .

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

Town is highly committed to preserving its open space and conservation areas, this is a natural complement.

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 took advantage of the Garden for Wildlife donated plant program this year.

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

we are trying our best with a small group of volunteers leading the effort to educate the public when we can-such as at our annual town picnic.

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:

April 2023

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

The Southampton Select Board, chaired by myself, approved the Earth Day proclamation where the last two lines are: "As a first action, I have signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This national initiative offers opportunities to individuals in communities like Southampton, to restore native habitat that will support the monarch butterfly and other local pollinator species. " Additionally, the local Good Earth Gardeners celebrated Pollinator Week in June with a public event at a natural meadow area as part of our town's watershed protection efforts.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

earth day proclamation 2023.docx

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

pollinator pom meadow.jpg

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

Labrie Field-planting 64 perennials.jpg

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

Garden for Wildlife plot 250 sq ft.jpg

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

Sunflowers at library parking lot.jpg

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

milkweed.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Friends of Open Space Committee, Southampton Good Earth Gardeners, Town's Highway and Water Dept. Park Commission, Edwards Public Library. Continued the work done last year with planting more perennials at the town's Conant Park, very visible along the state highway through town, planted 64 perennials received through the NWF Garden for Wildlife program at Labrie Field, negotiated a once/year mowing of the watershed area meadow, letting natural grasses and flowers to appear seasonally, and received permission to plant viburnum as an understory to the nearby wooded area and install birdhouses. Began reclaiming vacant lot in town from invasives such as autumn olive and swallow-wort, used 'lasagna method' of cardboarding and wood chips to prevent weed growth in anticipation of planting in the spring.

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)

20

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

10

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

The Good Earth Gardeners held a small native plant sale in the fall at the local library.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

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Conant Park flowers.jpg

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

Conant split-rail flowers.jpg

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

Perennials Labrie Field.jpg

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

Pollinator week at the Meadow.jpg

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

No Mow May at Library grounds.jpg

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)

Maintained and increased plantings of perennials at the Conant Park split rail fence alongside the highway-town center. Doubled the size of pollinator plot at Labrie Field (additional 250 sq ft) through planting 64 perennials received from Garden for Wildlife program. Negotiated with town officials to leave a natural meadow un-mowed except for once annually and the Gardeners group hosted a day there during pollinator week, inviting the public to walk the area and observe the kinds of wildflowers in the meadow. Also successfully worked with the Highway Dept and Library to designate the town-owned library grounds for a No Mow May effort.

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

the Good Earth Gardeners, Park, Library, Highway and Water Commission leaders

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.

.03

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Cardboard & chips at vacant site #1.jpg

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

Chip spreading, reclaiming vacant town lot.jpg

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

Cardboard and chips #2.jpg

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

215 College Highway Southampton MA.

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

Good Earth Gardeners, Highway Dept.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

0.15

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

3

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

Volunteers have worked with the Gardeners group to reclaim a vacant town-owned property and clear it of invasives and cover with cardboard and wood chips for planting in the spring, some of which will be dedicated to pollinators. Discovered and preserved an area of established common milkweed already present in that area. 4 members of the Garden group are converting portions of their own lawn/grassy areas to be future plantings attracting pollinators.

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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.

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

clearing invasives at Whittemore Conservation trailhead.jpg

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

improved trailhead access Earth Day.jpg

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

Committee vols cleaning up invasives.jpg

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

0.2

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.

Members of the town's democratic committee approached the Conservation Commission to do a project for Earth Day--the trailhead of the Whittemore Conservation area was substantially cleared of invasive species, particularly bittersweet and multi-flora rose. The vacant town-owned parcel mentioned above also was cleared of invasives like autumn olive and swallow-wort.

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?

Park Commission

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 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.

N/A

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

the Park Commission has engaged a consulting firm to develop a Master Plan for the park/recreation areas and have requested that it address/include pollinator habitat. Expected by March 2024.

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