Township of Zorra

Township of Zorra, ON

Mayor Marcus Ryan

Pledge Summary

As a result of a delegation by residents Penny Poole and Patti Wallace, Council unanimously challenged me to make the Mayors Monarch Pledge. I'm very happy to make this Pledge. This comes a few years after A. J. Baker students asked for property to plant Monarch Way Stations around the township. Zorra is an environmentally conscious community, are good stewards of our natural environment and we protect our environment by valuing our natural assets and using our resources wisely. So, as with so many other issues Zorra speaks not only through words and commitments, but through actions: by doing our part. I'm happy to say that of the 29 Action Items possible Council chose to fulfill 14, AND that other Action Items be considered for next year's renewal of the Pledge. - Mayor Marcus Ryan

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

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- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Marcus Ryan	2022	1/5/2022	
Mayor Marcus Ryan	2021	4/22/2021	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.).

2000

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.)

N/A

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

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.

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Residences, roadsides, community gardens, parks, municipal office.

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

The Township to work with community groups in 2022 to leverage the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities.

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

In April 2020, two Zorra residents (Penny Poole and Patti Wallace) presented a delegation to Zorra Council challenging Mayor Ryan to sign the Mayors Monarch Butterfly Pledge and support the project. Furthermore, the Township of Zorra has identified through our strategic goals that "We are an environmentally conscious community and are good stewards of our natural environment". Supporting the monarch butterflies and their habitat aligns with this goal.

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?

The information on the NWF website about Monarch Butterflies has been extremely helpful with our social media campaign to promote awareness. The Township has used information found on the NWF website, as well as images to help spread awareness. It would be helpful if there were sample education program documents on the website, especially documents that could be distributed at the local schools in Zorra to promote awareness and involvement in the monarch butterfly campaign.

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

The Township of Zorra Council passed a resolution to complete 14 action items for the Mayors Monarch Butterfly Pledge. Nine (9) action items were completed in 2021 and the Township has plans to complete the remaining five (5) action items in 2022. The remaining action items will require more community involvement and participation.

Selected Action Items

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only,

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e.g. 50).

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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

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

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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.

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

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

Township of Zorra staff (recreation and public works departments).

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

In progress.

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

The Township of Zorra's mowing operations during summer months were limited to 5 metres from road edge, which allowed native prairie and plants to thrive in uncut areas of the road allowance.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

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).

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The Township of Zorra posted bi-weekly social media posts (Facebook and Twitter) during the spring/summer season to encourage residents to plant pollinators, including education on what plants are beneficial for monarchs in this area. The social media posts included links to pollinator websites, monarch websites, and the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge website.

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

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

In 2021, a community garden group was founded through the Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee and planted gardens in the villages Embro and Harrinton in Zorra Township. The gardens included native pollinator species. For 2022, ground work is to be completed for pollinator garden project in two Zorra Township parks (North Park and Lions River Park) in partnership with the Thamesford Lions Club and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee (ZRAC) ZRAC Community Garden Subcommittee

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The Township of Zorra is working with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to help with several of the action items for the Mayors' Monarch Butterfly Pledge, including general support for monarch butterfly conservation. The Township will also working with the UTRCA to establish two (2) pollinator gardens in our community in the spring of 2022. The Township of Zorra has also informed the Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee of the Township's efforts to support butterfly conservation efforts, which resulted in additional plants for monarch butterflies at the community gardens in Zorra Township.

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)

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Township of Zorra municipal office - 274620 27th Line, Ingersoll ON N5C 3K5

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

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (recommended native pollinator species for the garden).

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.

2 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.

The Township of Zorra had a Phragmites infestation, which resulted in aggressive mowing operations to combat the infestation. The mowing operations began in 2019 and will continue until control is established. There is approximately 2 acres of land within the road allowance in Zorra Township that are infested with Phragmites.

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).

There are two signs at the pollinator gardens in the Township. One sign is located behind the Township Municipal Office and the other is located behind the old firehall in the Village of Thamesford.

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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 21, 2021.

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

The Township of Zorra does not issue proclamations, but did "pledge to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat" through the passing of a formal resolution.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

21-04-21 Minutes.pdf

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

2011-095 - Aden - Vegetation Management Tender.doc

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

11-05-03 Council Minutes.doc

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

Township of Zorra staff (recreation and public works departments).

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.

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

The Township of Zorra discontinued the use of roadside herbicide in 2011.

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