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 Butterfly Pledge. I'm very happy to. 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, Zorra Council has chosen to fulfill 14. Nine of the items were completed in 2021 and the remaining five will be completed in 2022.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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).

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

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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.).

300

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.)

250 youth and 50 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

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.

Residences, schools, parks

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

The Township of Zorra has provided opportunities for engagement on a variety of platforms (i.e., social media, Township website, community events, etc.) where all are welcome to participate.

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

The Township of Zorra was challenged to take the pledge by 2 Zorra residents. After reviewing the pledge, Township Council decided that the Township should take on 14 action items from the pledge. One of the Township's strategic goals is: "We are 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." The 14 action items from the Mayors Monarch Butterfly Pledge helps the Township work

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towards its goal of being environmentally conscious, while promoting monarch butterflies and their habitats.

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?

Sample documents on education plans and conservation strategies would be helpful when developing these documents specific to the Township.

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

N/a

Selected Action Items

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).

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

Mighty Monarchs Presentation.pdf

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)

Township staff worked with residents, Patti Wallace and Penny Poole, to develop several different project ideas for Zorra's schools, including an educational brochure for classes and monarch butterfly presentations. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) conducted presentations at the Township of Zorra elementary schools in the spring of 2022 to educate the students on monarch butterflies. The UTRCA presenters read a story (with the younger kids), acted out the monarch life cycle, dressed a volunteer up as a monarch, and played a migration game. We also talked about threats to monarchs and how planting native flowers could help.

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)

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3

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

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority presented to 16 classes throughout the 3 schools (Zorra Highland Park School, Thamesford Public School, and AJ Baker Public School) in Zorra Township.

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

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority provided a PowerPoint presentation 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).

250

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

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

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.

1

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

We are unsure what the maintenance schedule is. Any pollinator gardens planted at the schools would be the responsibility of the school to maintain.

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.

North Park pollinator.jpg

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

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Thamesford Lions Club, Girl Guides, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

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 has been promoting the use of native plants, shrubs, and trees in Zorra landscaping, as well as community garden projects. The Thamesford Lions Club and Girls Guides planted a pollinator garden at North Park in Thamesford using native plants. The Township also worked with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority on two pollinator gardens in Zorra Township in spring 2022.

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

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

The Township of Zorra will be working with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and utilizing their contacts and strategies in 2023 to implement a Zorra strategy.

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

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

butterfly mural.jpg

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

Unity Charity, Calithumpian Committee

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, e.g. 50).

40

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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).

A monarch butterfly mural was painted on the side of the washrooms building at Thamesford South Park. The mural is pollinator and monarch themed to promote awareness of conservation efforts. The mural opened on Victoria Day weekend in 2022. Township staff worked with Unity Charity, a national non-profit organization that uses Hip Hop art forms to promote resilience and well-being among youth, to connect with a mural artist named Renier, who is experienced in not only mural painting, but community engagement initiatives. The Township also worked with the local community festival organizers from the Calithumpian Committee to team up and leverage the existing public participation in the Victoria Day weekend events. Dozens of people attended the event over the course of the mural painting.

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

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The Township has contacted developers, as well as planning staff, regarding creating monarch habitat in the Township. During the pre-consultation stage of any subdivision proposal, staff will recommend that developers in the Township consider using native and nectar-producing plants for landscaping where applicable, and to include such in landscape plans provided to the Township during the application phase.

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