City of Sterling Heights

Sterling Heights, MI

Mayor Michael Taylor

Pledge Summary

Sterling Heights is a young city, incorporated on July 1, 1968. The city operates with a “Council/City Manager” form of government. The council is elected by residents, and it sets the policies, enacts the ordinances and adopts the city budget. The city manager is responsible for carrying out the policies set by the council and for supervising all of the departments of city government. Sterling Heights is the third largest in area and the fourth largest in population in the state of Michigan. Sterling Heights has a population of 134,346 (2020 census) people living within 36.8 square miles. Sterling Heights is home to more than 3,500 commercial and industrial businesses. Sterling Heights is located just 20-35 minutes northeast of downtown Detroit in the county of Macomb. The hard work and dedication of our professional staff and community volunteers is responsible for the extensive list of awards earned by the organization.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 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.

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 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).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor of Sterling Heights Michael Taylor	2026	2/12/2026	
Mayor Michael Taylor	2023	3/6/2023	
Mayor Michael Taylor	2022	3/2/2022	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.).

135000

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.)

Unknown

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.

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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.

Library children's garden, Sterling Heights Nature Center, Relief drain, resident yards

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

Handed out 1,000 Milkweed seed packets at our memorial day parade

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

to save the butterflies!

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 Master Gardeners in our Sterling Heights Beautification Commission

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

The Library children's garden is now officially a Monarch Waystation

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.

DSC_9694.JPG

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

DSC_9686.JPG

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

DSC_9705.JPG

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)

The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan Fall Quarterly Meeting

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)

12

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

Fraser, Garden Club of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harrison Township, Lathrup Village, Sterling Heights, Taylor, Trenton, Warren, Wyandotte

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

Master Gardener Jean Persely, Monarch Butterfly presentation

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).

60

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

The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

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.

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

There is a meeting quarterly each year

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 22, 2022

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

Mayor Michael C. Taylor designating Friday, April 22, 2022 as "Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day"

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

mayoral_proclamation_Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day.pdf

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

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DSC_9694 (1).JPG

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

DSC_9705 (1).JPG

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

12 (Fraser, Garden Club of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harrison Township, Lathrup Village, Sterling Heights, Taylor, Trenton, Warren, Wyandotte)

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

The Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan Fall Quarterly Meeting. Master Gardener Jean Persley gave a Monarch Butterfly presentation.

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

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

Plant Exchange post.jpg

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

2022 Plant Exchange Sentry .jpg

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

125 given away

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

45

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

Just our city for our residents

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.

Monarch in photo.jpg

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

photo in bloom.jpg

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

DSC_6993.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)

Sterling Heights Public Library Children's Garden located at 40255 Dodge Park Rd

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

Sterling Heights Beautification 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.

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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.

Sterling Relief Drain Habitat Restoration & Butterfly Flyway.jpg

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

36174 Schoenherr Rd

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

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner’s Office

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.

40

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)

2

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

The Macomb County Public Works Office used $1.82 million in grants to transform two miles of the 5.2-mile Sterling Relief Drain in Sterling Heights, utilizing green infrastructure to better serve the community. The project is focused on water quality and improving the operation of the drain, but will include the creation of a butterfly "flyway" as a side benefit. The grants will paid for two miles of upgrades along the drain, which runs east-west through Sterling Heights, roughly halfway between 15 Mile Road and Metropolitan Parkway. The work will include "day-lighting" portions of the drains central channel - making that area appear like an intermittent stream that will often be dry - and planting more than 5,000 trees and bushes in the drain property. As part of the final landscaping of the project, MCPWO will plant a mixture of milkweed and other pollinating plants that are attractive to monarch butterflies. The plant mix will run the length of the project and create a monarch butterfly breeding area and potentially a butterfly flyway

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