Town of Trenton

Trenton, ME

Chairman, Board of Selectmen R. Frederick Ehrlenbach

Pledge Summary

Trenton is a town in Mid-Coast Maine. Trenton has a rough population of 1,500. The town is nestled just off the islands hosting Acadia National Park. We are currently planning for community gardens and parks. We are committed to help saving the Monarch Butterfly population and other pollinators with our signing and commitment to the Mayors Monarch Pledge. We look forward to engaging and educating our residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout our town.

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.
- 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 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.
- 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- 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

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- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- 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
Chairman, Board of Selectmen Fred Ehrlenbach	2026	3/17/2026	
Chairman, Board of Selectmen Fred Ehrlenbach	2025	3/19/2025	Leadership Circle
Chair, Board of Selectmen R. Frederick Ehrlenbach	2024	3/8/2024	Leadership Circle

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Chairman, Board of Selectmen R. Frederick Ehrlenbach	2023	2/3/2023	Leadership Circle
Chairman, Board of Selectmen R. Frederick Ehrlenbach	2022	3/31/2022	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.).

150

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.)

Approximately 15 youth 135 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.

.5

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.

Town Office, Elementary School, private residences

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

Our events are free and open to the public. Both demonstration gardens are accessible to folks from all walks of life.

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

We learned that the Monarch butterfly is in trouble, and that rural Maine communities could make a difference.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

We were grateful to find a Maine Master Naturalist as well as a local representative of the Xerces Society to provide expertise in selecting and planning our pollinator sites. In future we would like to include local Wabanaki tribal members in our events but we will need to raise funding to do so, as it is important to recognize the value of their time and energy.

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

There tends to be considerable resistance to change in small Maine towns, so we are moving at the speed of trust and working on educating the community. The town has included a limited amount of funding out of the Parks & Rec budget.

Selected Action Items

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).

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

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

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.

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

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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.

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, 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).

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)

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

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

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)

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

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.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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.

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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?

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

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Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

What was the date of your festival?

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

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

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)

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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.

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?

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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We have reached out to Maine Cooperative Extension Service, Maine Master Naturalists, Xerces Society, Charlotte Rhoads Butterfly Garden and Ellsworth Garden Club to make initial contact and ask for help publicizing our Proclamation Day; will continue to work on developing relationships with these groups and others. Trenton Butterfly Gardens Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/trentonbutterflygardens was formed in March and has 100 members to date. This site is used for community education and sharing news and events about our Monarch Pledge.

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.

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

Trenton Parks and Recreation, town manager, Board of Selectmen, mowing staff

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

o Parks & Rec has taken the leadership to promote all of the pledge actions together with Barbara Acosta, the coordinator of Trenton's pledge. o Parks & Rec has worked with the Board of Selectmen, the town manager, and the mowing staff to plan and carry out the town pollinator garden and protect it from mowing and pesticides

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:

7/16/2022

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

Trenton Pledge Proclamation Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-07-16Proclamation.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-07-16ChipReading.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-07-16Cyrene.jpg

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-07-16MilkweedGiveaway.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022-07-16PledgePoster.jpg

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Milkweed Propagation Poster.pdf

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

2022-10-01 MilkweedWkshp4.jpg

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

2022-10-01 MilkweedWkshp.jpg

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

2022-10-01 MilkweedWkshp2.jpg

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

2022-10-01 MilkweedSeedPods.jpg

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

18

What species were collected or propagated?

asclepias syriaca, asclepias incarnata, rudbeckia hirta, monarda fistulosa, monarda dydama

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

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Maine Master Naturalists

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Cyrene Slegona, a Maine Master Naturalist, presented about the milkweed plant, how to collect seeds and propagate them. The event took place in the field next to the Hollander and De Koning mussel processing plant. The De Konings have been planting and cultivating common milkweed there for the past 5 years or so. Alex De Koning had collected milkweed seed pods not only from his own property but also from some of this friends so we had plenty to give out. We also conducted a wildflower seed exchange.

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.

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

Trenton Trip Report 2022-05.pdf

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

Maine Master Naturalists, Xerces Society, Charlotte Rhoads Butterfly Garden, Maine Outdoor School have all provided advice and expertise. We have also been in touch with Native Gardens of Blue Hill, Downeast Audubon, Friends of Acadia, Ellsworth Garden Club, College of the Atlantic, and Blue Hill Heritage Trust to inform them of our efforts and invite their participation.

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

o Cyrene Slegona, Maine Master Naturalist, has offered advice, spoke at Proclamation Day, and led the milkweed seed collection and propagation workshop. Livia Raulanaitis of Xerces Society visited our community, provided expert advice on site selection, and wrote up an extensive report outlining how to proceed to prepare the new habitats. o In May, Barb Acosta, MMP coordinator, collaborated with the Maine Outdoor School to offer a milkweed identification lesson to 2nd graders at Trenton Elementary School

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

2022-07-04TownGarden2.jpg

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

2022-07-16KidPlanting.jpg

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

2022-07-16TownGarden.jpg

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

2022-07-16Sign.jpg

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

2022-07-31TESSite2.jpg

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

2022-08-25TownGarden.jpg

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

2022-08-01TESSite.jpg

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

2022-07MonarchCat.jpg

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

2022-07-30CatsinBucket.jpg

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

2022-08-25MonarchonJPW3.jpg

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

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Trenton Butterfly Gardens, Maine Master Naturalists, Xerces Society

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

32

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

On June 28, 2022 a group of volunteers created our first demonstration pollinator garden next to the pond behind the town office. The garden consists of 7 swamp milkweed, 4 obedient plants, 8 bee balm, 3 blue vervain and 6 mountain mint. This first iteration of the garden is 20 x 3.5 feet. On July 31 a 2 x 20 foot strip of swamp milkweed was planted behind the Trenton Elementary School at the request of teachers. This site adds to an existing pollinator garden at the front of the school and is used for student outdoor education.

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