Town of Trenton

Trenton, ME

Chairman, Board of Selectmen R. Frederick Ehrlenbach

Pledge Summary

Trenton is a small town of approximately 1,500 people. It is located at the gateway between the nearest metropolitan area of Ellsworth and Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. In 2022 the town planted two small demonstration pollinator gardens, one behind the town office and a second behind the Trenton Elementary School. The Select Board has pledged to help conserve the Monarch butterfly and to encourage its citizens to participate in community activities in relation to pollinator conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Chairman, Board of Selectmen Fred Ehrlenbach	2026	3/17/2026	

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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
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.).

200

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 20 youth and 180 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.

.05

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.

Trenton town office, Trenton Elementary School, and private land belonging to residents

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.

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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 have added a second Maine Master Naturalist to our list of volunteer speaker/experts. We also benefit from information gleaned from related groups on social media and in neighboring communities. We need more access to local sources of native plants.

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

This spring and summer were exceptionally rainy which may have affected the population of monarchs. Observations of eggs and caterpillars were spotty until later in the summer.

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).

Facebook page @trentonbutterflygardens Enewsletter Printed materials

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, Trenton Butterfly Gardens

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

This year we formed Trenton Butterfly Gardens in order to organize ourselves better to carry out the pledge. We are a small group of volunteers and we maintain a mailing list and a facebook page and we organize all of the events. We coordinate with Parks & Rec to communicate with the mowing staff who mow around the garden. They were very accommodating when we decided to expand the town pollinator garden this year.

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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.

Native Gardens of Blue Hill University of Maine Cooperative Extension Wild Ones of Midcoast Maine Xerces Society Ellsworth Garden Club

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

NGBH and UMaine Coop. Extension had a table at this year's butterfly festival. The latter group helped us connect with a 2nd Maine Master Naturalist to help us at our events. We also participated in founding the Wild Ones chapter of Midcoast Maine. Xerces sent us free informational brochures, and Ellsworth Garden Club helped us advertise our events.

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.

2023-09-30 Plant Swap-Cropped.jpg

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

40

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

12

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

2 Maine Master Naturalists

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.

2023-09-30 Plant Swap2-Cropped.jpg

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

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12

What species were collected or propagated?

asclepias syriaca and asclepias incarnata

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

Same as above

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

The native plant and seed swap comprised both this and the previous action. Participants were invited to bring a plant/get a plant or bring seeds/get seeds. The program began with a workshop by one of our Maine Master Naturalists on how to start a pollinator garden, after which she demonstrated and gave participants practice in collecting milkweed and other kinds of native seeds from the town pollinator garden.

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.

Hellstrip 2023-08.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)

Trenton Town Office, 59 Oak Point Road, Trenton ME 04605. The original demonstration garden is located behind the fire pond in an area that was previously lawn. This year we added plantings in the hell strip between the parking lot and Oak Point Road, which was previously full of gravel and weeds.

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

The plants were donated from the personal garden of the Trenton Butterfly Gardens Coordinator and by a local nursery, Plants Unlimited.

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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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.

IMG_5699.jpg

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

Trenton Butterfly Gardens, Parks & Rec, Plants Unlimited

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

45

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Plants Unlimited donated 30 plants. The remainder were donated by the Coordinator of Trenton Butterfly Gardens

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2022-07-16Sign.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

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

Monarch Waystation from monarchwatch.org Pollinator Habitat sign Pollinator garden flag

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