Town of Trenton

Trenton, ME

Chair, 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 2024

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 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- 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.

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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
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.).

250

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.)

20

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.

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?

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

Workshops on practical and effective ways to increase community engagement would be helpful

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

The annual butterfly festival continues to be our most popular event

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).

We have continued to maintain a presence on social media and an email listserv to communicate with the public about monarch pollinator 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.

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

Maine Cooperative Extension Service Native Gardens of Blue Hill Xerces Society Ellsworth Garden Club

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

We worked closely with a Maine Master Gardener this year to offer several workshops. We also cultivated ongoing relationships with the local gardening club as well as native plant groups, some of which participated in the annual butterfly festival.

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)

Participants collected seeds from at least a dozen different plant species and took home free seed packets

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

7

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

A Maine Master Gardener gave a workshop on native seed collecting. Someone from Hancock County Soil and Water attended.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

7

What species were collected or propagated?

swamp milkweed, common milkweed

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

Maine Master Gardener

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

The milkweed seed collection was part of the Native Seed Harvesting Workshop and Seed Swap

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

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location.

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

2024-08-11 Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

Hellstrip2024b.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)

Two demonstration gardens are located at 59 Oak Point Road, Trenton, ME. One behind the fire pond and one on the hell strip next to the road.

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

Trenton Butterfly Gardens

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.

.1

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

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

Trenton Butterfly Gardens

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

10

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed were added to the town demonstration garden and to individual gardens at private residences

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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.

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

image000001.jpg

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

image000003.jpg

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

IMG_8278.jpg

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)

27

What was the date of your festival?

7/13/2024

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

Native Gardens of Blue Hill, Xerces Society

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).

The festival featured a pollinator parade, a raffle, games for children, and information tables staffed by community partners. Six local businesses donated prizes for the raffle. The event was advertised in the local newspapers, radio, and by flyers posted around town.

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

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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).

2

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

NA

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

This initiative was announced at the Butterfly Festival in which we encouraged participants to download and use the Monarch Watch app. However, without follow-up it is impossible to determine how many people participated.

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.

.1

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.

Invasives are regularly removed from in or near the demonstration gardens with a particular focus on garlic mustard.

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)

Through Trenton Butterfly Gardens, we offered 3 workshops this year: How to Transform Your Lawn into a Pollinator Habitat; How to Start a Pollinator Garden; and

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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)

1

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

0

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

NA

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).

0

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

1

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.

0

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

NA

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