Town of Trenton

Trenton, ME

Chairman, Board of Selectmen Fred 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 signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for the first time. Community volunteers 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 2025

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.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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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.).

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.)

24

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.

residences, roadsides, town office

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

Our programs are inclusive for all including people of all social classes and communities of color.

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

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To help save the Monarch butterfly

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 moved beyond a focus on the monarch toward restoring habitat for all pollinators. Would love to see a grant program to make our gardens more accessible for people with disabilities.

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

Our butterfly festival continues to be the most popular of our activities, but we generally get good turnout for all our workshops

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 continue to spread the word through public communication about our events. We have a list of a dozen local media that usually receive press releases, and have been interviewed for WABI television a couple of times.

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.

Ellsworth Garden Club, Native Gardens of Blue Hill, Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, Hancock County Soil and Water

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

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Several groups tabled at our Trenton Days/Trenton Butterfly Festival this year. We also usually cross-post one another's events on each other's Facebook pages and newsletters

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.

SeedSwapPoster2025.png

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

SeedSwap2025.jpg

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

30-40 native seed packets were exchanged

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?

NA

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

12

What species were collected or propagated?

Common milkweed and swamp milkweed seeds

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

NA

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

This was done in conjunction with the native seed swap

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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)

Trenton Town Office, 59 Oak Point Road, Trenton, ME 04605

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

Ellsworth Garden Club, Maine Master Naturalists and a Maine Master Gardener

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.

.25

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)

12

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year we added a variety of native flowering plants to fill in gaps in both the upper demonstration garden and the hellstrip at the Trenton Town Office.

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

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

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Invasives Poster.png

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

InvasivesWkshp2025.jpg

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

InvasivesWkshp2025b.jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

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.

A worskhop was attended by about 11 people, many of whom remained afterwards to remove invasive Asian bittersweet from behind the town office

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.

ButterflyFest2025a.jpg

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

ButterflyFest2025b.jpg

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

ButterflyFest2025c.jpg

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

ButterflyFest2025d.jpg

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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)

50

What was the date of your festival?

June 28, 2025

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

Trenton Parks & Rec, Trenton Butterfly Gardens, Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, Native Gardens of Blue Hill, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Hancock County Soil & Water, Woodlawn

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).

This year's festival was held in conjunction with Trenton Days. Despite a rainy start, a good number of people showed up including many children who participated in the Pollinator Parade. Acadia National Park sent a ranger to lead a monarch butterfly scavenger game. We held a raffle with prizes donated from local businesses, and nearly everyone went home with a small prize, including milkweed plants.

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