City of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay, ON

Mayor Bill Mauro

Pledge Summary

Thunder Bay is the largest city in Northwestern Ontario with a population of roughly 108,000. Situated along the north shore of Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes, Thunder Bay is nestled on the edge of the wild boreal forest and surrounded by stunning natural habitat. Mayor Mauro is proud to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to strengthen Thunder Bay's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability through the EarthCare Sustainability Plan. With over 100 parks and parkettes, and more than 32km of paved recreational trails, Thunder Bay recognizes the importance of urban nature. With the help of the dedicated volunteers from the Thunder Bay Urban Greenscapes Volunteer Group, we will continue to work towards conservation of the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators by educating and empowering citizens, engaging in community conservation efforts, and encouraging the planting of milkweed throughout our community. We can all work together to protect, enhance, and create essential pollinator habitat.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.
- 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.

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- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Ken Boshcoff	2024	2/21/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Ken Boshcoff	2023	4/20/2023	Signatories
Mayor Bill Mauro	2022	4/27/2022	Leadership Circle

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.).

15000

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.)

500 youth and 14500 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.

1.6

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.

Monarch habitat is being created in community gardens, city parks, low impact development areas, the Waterfront Marina, EcoSuperior's rain garden, St. Joseph's Hospital courtyard, infill where invasive species have been removed, and residential yards.

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

Including milkweed and pollinator flowering plants in public gardens gives everyone access to these gardens and the educational component of pollinator signage provides education on the benefits to Monarchs as well as other pollinators. Milkweed seeds have been harvested, packaged, and are being donated to the local Thunder Bay Public Libraries for free distribution to the community. Seeds will also be distributed at events, volunteer nights, and to residents who contact us directly through the Urban Greenscapes Facebook Group, along with information on how to sow and grow milkweed.

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

The late Dan Fulton, creator of the Adelaide Butterfly Garden, inspired Urban Greenscapes (UG) volunteers to carry on his vision of supporting the Monarch Butterfly populations by maintaining and developing the garden, raising awareness of the need to create pollinator habitat, and helping improve urban biodiversity.

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?

It has been most helpful to have open dialogue between volunteers and City Parks, Sustainability, and Bylaw Departments re: community garden development, urban greening, and bylaw revision. The community may benefit from the development of natural garden and boulevard garden resources to accompany new bylaw changes supporting naturalization and allowing boulevard gardens. There is a need to increase access to pollinator plants and seeds that are native to Ontario (e.g. nurseries carry very limited options for native species gardening in Thunder Bay). Pollinator garden signage that includes Ojibwa-Cree language could expand engagement, as well as the establishment of sacred gardens (e.g. at Boulevard Lake Park Area).

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

See below 'Selected Action Items Summary' for details of 2022 efforts.

Selected Action Items

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

Action 3_Garden Tour Ticket_1.jpg

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

Action 3_Garden Tour Ticket_2.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Members of the Urban Greenscapes Facebook group share weblinks, images, and social media posts with each other (2.2k members) and other local Facebook gardening groups, including Thunder Bay Horticultural Society (1.2k members), Thunder Bay Gardening and Ag Community (8.1k members) and Master Gardeners of Thunder Bay (1.1k followers). We raise awareness about declining Monarch populations and the need for pollinator habitat in our urban spaces. Many of our members have gardens of their own and are also members of other gardening groups such as the Thunder Bay Butterflyway Ranger Project, promoting eco-friendly gardening practices, and the creation of pollinator corridors. Volunteers share advice with friends, family, co-workers, neighbours and anyone else interested in the subject. The Adelaide Butterfly Garden was featured on the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's highly-attended 25th Annual Garden Tour. Thunder Bay Public Library has a garden tool lending program for local gardeners. Urban Greenscapes has partnered with TBPL to complement this program by providing hundreds of Swamp and Common Milkweed seeds packages for free give-away to residents.

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.

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

Action 4_No Mow Zone.jpg

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

Urban Greenscapes, Community Greening Working Group, City of Thunder Bay Parks Division, City of Thunder Bay Solid Waste and Recycling Division, EarthCare Thunder Bay.

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

No-mow signs have been developed for use on city lands and city staff are being trained to modify mowing practices near shorelines and in designated no-mow areas. The signs have also been made available for purchase and use by residents. City staff grew and planted hundreds of milkweed into public gardens. The City continues work to install additional Low Impact Developments which feature many native plant species, including milkweed. The City of Thunder Bay Solid Waste Management Strategy incorporated "Leave the Leaves" messaging on the City of Thunder Bay Leaf and Yard Waste webpage to support urban

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biodiversity and pollinator overwintering survival rates: https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-services/leaf-and-yard.aspx

Create a community art project to enhance and promote 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.

Action 9_James Street LID_2.jpg

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

Action 9_James Street LID_3.jpg

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

Action 9_Orange Memorial Garden_4.jpg

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

Action9_James Street LID_1.jpg

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

Action9_Orange Memorial Garden_1.jpg

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

Action9_Orange Memorial Garden_2.jpg

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

Action9_Orange Memorial Garden_3.png

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

Minogin Gitigaanis Society, St. Joseph's Hospital, Urban Greenscapes, City of Thunder Bay, City of Thunder Bay Anishinaabe Elder's Council

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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).

40

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).

1. On National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, 2021, Minogin Gitigaanis Society from Alter Eden installed an Orange Flower Memorial Project in the public courtyard of St. Joseph's Hospital. This project encourages healing and recognition for the ongoing trauma of the Residential School system. Clients, staff, and visitors to the hospital enjoy this healing space. Urban Greenscapes supports this project through ongoing care and maintenance of the garden which contains many pollinator-supporting flowers, indigenous plant species, sacred sweetgrass and sage, and multiple varieties of milkweed donated by Alter Eden, Thunder Bay Butterflyway Ranger Project, and UG volunteers. The space has been registered as both part of the Butterflyway Project and as a Monarch Waystation. 2. A Low Impact Development installed at the Northwood Playfield on James Street channels runoff from the new splash pad down a waterfall feature and into an infiltration basin where it nourishes artfully arranged native plant species. A 'no mow zone' with signage surrounds the planted area. Consultation with City of Thunder Bay's Anishinaabe Elders Council provided cultural guidance for the design of this splash pad which incorporates a "Water is Life" Anishinaabe teaching, features indigenous plants and animals, and contains boulders from Animikii-wajiw presenting the seven grandfather stones and grandfather teachings. https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/news/northwood-playfield-splash-pad-officially-opens.aspx

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.

Action 10_Milkweed Sale_1.jpg

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

Action 10_Milkweed Sale_2.jpg

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

Action 10_Milkweed Sale_3.jpg

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

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Action 10_Milkweed Sale_4.jpg

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

Action 10_Seed Exchange_1.jpg

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

Action 10_Seed Exchange_2.jpg

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

500

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

1500

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

Urban Greenscapes, Creekside Nursery, Trevisanutto's Greenhouses, Roots Community Food Centre

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.

Action 12_Marina Garden_1.jpg

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

Action 12_Marina Garden_2.jpg

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

Action 12_Marina Garden_3.jpg

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

Action 12_Marina Garden_4.jpg

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

Action 12_Marina Garden_5.jpg

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

Action 12_Adelaide Garden_1.jpg

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

Action 12_Adelaide Garden_2.jpg

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

Action 12_Memorial Arbour_1.jpg

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

Action 12_Memorial Arbour_2.jpg

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

Action 12_Memorial Arbour_3.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)

City Staff planted a pollinator garden beside the Baggage Building Art Centre which includes native plant species and hundreds of milkweed plants. This high-traffic tourist destination hosts Monarchs at the Marina for the first time ever and is now a registered Monarch Waystation. Address: 2200 Sleeping Giant Pkwy, Thunder Bay, ON. P7A 0E7; Volunteers devoted hundreds of hours to maintain and develop the Adelaide Butterfly Garden. This native species demonstration garden is connected to the popular Boulevard Lake multi-use pathway. Every Tues/Thurs evening volunteers gather to work in the garden. Activities include weeding, pruning, moving soil/mulch/rock, relocating plants, planting new plants, harvesting seed, and many other tasks as they arise. Everyone is

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welcome to participate. A newly installed Arbour, donated in loving memory by the family and friends of the late Dan Fulton, highlights the garden's prominence as a free, bookable park space. The community was thrilled to see this garden host its first wedding in September 2022. Address: 420 Adelaide Street, Thunder Bay, ON, P7A 7T8

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

Urban Greenscapes, City of Thunder Bay

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.

0.50

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

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

Action 18_Bioblitz_1.jpg

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

Action 18_Bioblitz_2.jpg

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).

75

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

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Urban Greenscapes, Friends of Brent Park, Friends of the Thunder Bay Conservatory, Friends of the LPH Greenspace

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

1. For the first time ever, Thunder Bay joined the world's largest BioBlitz competition, the 2022 City Nature Challenge. 54 observers uploaded 742 sightings of plants and wildlife into

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the iNaturalist app and multiple public engagement events were hosted across the city by the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-thunder-bay-district-on-canada 2. Volunteers created four iNaturalist projects for local parks to join the spring 2022 City Nature Challenge and summer 2022 Big Backyard Bioblitz events. These ongoing projects are promoted through Friends of Brent Park, Friends of the Thunder Bay Conservatory, Friends of LPH Greenspace, and Urban Greenscapes Facebook groups. Signage and social media postings invite the public to help compile an atlas of life showcasing the biodiversity of our urban parks, including Monarchs and their host plants. https://inaturalist.ca/projects/brent-park https://inaturalist.ca/projects/centennial-botanical-conservatory https://inaturalist.ca/projects/lph-greenspace https://inaturalist.ca/projects/adelaide-butterfly-garden

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.

Action 19_Milkweed Growing_1.jpg

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

Action 19_Volunteer Planting_1.jpg

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

Action 19_Volunteer Planting_2.jpg

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

Action 19_Volunteer Planting_3.jpg

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

Urban Greenscapes, City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Butterfly Ranger Project

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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1. City Parks Staff grew over 500 milkweed plants and added these into public garden spaces and Low Impact Developments (LIDs) across Thunder Bay. 2. Urban Greenscapes and Thunder Bay Butterflyway Ranger Project volunteers grew, donated and planted hundreds of Ontario native species plants, including 175 Common and Swamp Milkweed, into public gardens including the Adelaide Butterfly Garden at Boulevard Lake Park, the EcoSuperior Rain Garden on Red River Road, and the Brent Park Wildflower Corner.

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.

Action 20_Invasive Removal_1.jpg

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

Action 20_Invasive Removal_2.jpg

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

Action 20_Invasive Removal_3.jpg

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

2

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.

Urban Greenscapes, Friends of LPH Greenspace, and StandUp4CleanUp volunteers partnered on community invasive species pull events at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital Greenspace. Volunteers removed over 50 bags of Himalayan Balsam flowers by hand and prevented tens of thousands of invasive seeds from spreading in the area. Afterwards, volunteers spread native plant species seeds, including Swamp and Common Milkweed, in the areas where Himalayan Balsam was removed. Participants raised awareness through Facebook posts, public events, and interviews with local media about the harm Himalayan Balsam causes to ecosystems, and the new bylaw requiring its removal from private property: https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/groups-look-to-combat-invasive-plant-5814669 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPlZQkiVnGw

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

Action 24_Boulevard Garden_1.jpg

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

EcoSuperior, Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy, Roots Community Food Centre, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Urban Greenscapes, Lorraine Johnson, EarthCare Community Greening Working Group, EarthCare Adivosry Committee, City Council

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

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.

September 12 2022

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Many community organizations, groups, and leaders were engaged during revision of Thunder Bay's Yard Maintenance Bylaw, and provided important feedback to develop regulations to support naturalization and allow boulevard gardening: EcoSuperior, Thunder Bay & Area Food Strategy, Roots Community Food Centre, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Lorraine Johnson (Ontario Native Plant Expert and Author of many books on this subject), EarthCare Community Greening Working Group, EarthCare Advisory Committee, The Mayor and all City Councillors supported these changes, Countless Thunder Bay residents contributed invaluable feedback both in person, online, via written letter, and by delivering a deputation to City Council On September 12, 2022, the Thunder Bay's Clean and Clear Yards By-law (BL 93/2022) (https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/By-laws/BL-93-2022--Clean--Clear-Yards.pdf) was revised and updated to support naturalization on private property and promote pollinator-friendly landscapes with the following changes: The terms "Turfgrass" and "Naturalized Garden Area" were added and defined to clarify that Naturalized Garden Areas are allowed on 100% of a yard, while Turfgrass is to be maintained at 8" in height; Vacant lands which are not growing Turfgrass will no longer need to be cut, only managed for prohibited plants, which will reduce carbon emissions related to maintenance; Intentional natural garden habitat features (e.g. a nurse log in a garden) are exempt from the definition of "Waste Material" and allowed in a natural garden; and, A locally relevant prohibited plants list now mandates removal of several invasive plant species from private property under Schedule A - Prohibited Local Plants (https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-hall/resources/By-laws/By-law-93-Attachment-A.pdf) The City of Thunder Bay continues to

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explore allowances for Boulevard Gardening on public property. A Working Group has been assembled to provide inputs/decisions to the Licensing & Enforcement Department which will write the draft bylaw (tentative for May 2023).

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

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

Action 14_Leland Ave_1.png

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

Action 14_Leland Ave_2.jpg

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

Action 14_Leland Ave_3.jpg

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

Leland Ave South, Thunder Bay, ON. Medians on entire section of street were reconstructed and replanted this year.

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

300

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.

0.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The City of Thunder Bay is exploring a no/low-maintenance turfgrass alternative at the Leland Ave medians. In the fall of 2021 these medians were seeded with a native species wildflower mix containing low-growing, salt-tolerant pollinator plants. A fall 2022 visit to the site confirmed thousands of seeds successfully germinated and established. As these projects can take multiple years to establish, the medians will continue to be monitored and managed in order to learn from this trial.

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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.

Action 11_Grow One Keep One_1.jpg

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

Action 11_Grow One Keep One_2.jpg

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

Action 11_Native Plant Species Donation_1.jpg

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

Action 11_Native Plant Species Donation_2.jpg

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

Action 11_Native Plant Species Donation_3.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Cleaning_1.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Cleaning_2.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Cleaning_3.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Envelopes_1.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Envelopes_2.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Saving_1.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Saving_2.jpg

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

Action 11_Seed Saving_3.jpg

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

200

What species were collected or propagated?

Common milkweed, swamp milkweed, blue lobelia, zigzag goldenrod, Scrophularia marilandica, and more

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

Urban Greenscapes, Superior Seed Producers, Roots Community Food Centre, Hammarskjold High School, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

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

1. Volunteers grew hundreds of Ontario native plant species for donation to the Adelaide Butterfly garden and various Urban Greenscapes planting projects. 2. Volunteers gathered thousands of seeds during multiple fall seed harvests at the Adelaide Butterfly Garden. 3. Volunteers attended the Superior Seed Producers seed cleaning event Oct 29th at the Roots Community Food Centre, and will continue cleaning seeds long into the winter months. 4. A highschool volunteer hours opportunity was created and promoted via Hammarskjold High School Student Services, inviting youth to create seed envelopes to obtain their volunteer hours. Volunteers upcycled scrap paper and old magazines and flyers into hundreds of seed envelopes. 5. Volunteers held a seed packaging event at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Administrative Office to prepare seeds for sharing with the community. 6. Volunteers collected donations of clean jugs and plastic clamshells

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and assembled 25 kits (consisting of 2 jugs, growing medium, milkweed seeds, and instructions) for a public “Grow One, Keep One” winter sowing project. Kits were distributed in fall of 2022 for participants to assemble and place outside in the snow. In spring of 2023, one jug of plants will be returned for use (in public gardens, plant sales, restoration projects, or infill after invasive plant pulls) while the other jug will be kept by the participant to plant in their own garden.

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.)

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

Draft Content for CTB Website_Kyla et al_Fall 2022.docx

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

2022 MMP - Action Summary - City of Thunder Bay.pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Urban Greenscapes Facebook group serves as the main communication platform for volunteers to share information and learn about ecologically friendly gardening practices, the use of native plant species, and the creation of monarch habitat. Members share Monarch news, articles, stories, and advice. Activities and events are posted on Facebook throughout the gardening season. UG volunteers also promote the creation of Monarch habitat at events and during regular gardening volunteer nights. Multiple UG volunteers gave news interviews (written and video) about naturalization and invasive species to raise awareness during the city’s bylaw revision process. Link to the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851110445142345/. Of note, volunteers entered the Adelaide Butterfly Garden into the TbayTel For Good $10,000 grant contest. The project outline was for expanding the diversity of the public Adelaide Butterfly Native Species Demonstration Garden, developing a Native Plant Seed Bank and Seed Library to support the community in creating pollinator habitat, building an Indigenous Garden to represent residential school survivors and Every Child Matters, and engaging neighbourhoods in invasive plant species removal awareness and activities. The project was widely promoted in the city, received over 12,000 votes, and came in 5th place out of 12 semi-finalists. Public communication also takes place using the monthly EarthCare e-mail newsletter hosted by the City of Thunder Bay: https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/earthcare-news.aspx. A news article was published on August 9, 2022 and profiled Thunder Bay residents who have already naturalized parts of their yard: https://www.tbnewswatch.com/following-up/following-up-naturalizing-your-yard-5670339. The group also created materials to be

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posted online. See attached document. This messaging will be provided to the City of Thunder Bay for consideration to host on their website.

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