# City of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay, ON

Mayor Ken Boshcoff

## 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 Boshcoff is proud to sign the Mayor's 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 recognises 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 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.)

### 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.

### Systems Change

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

## Past Pledge Archive

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| 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.).**

2456

**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.)**

100 youth and 2356 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

**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.

**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 were harvested, packaged, and sold online, and given away free to the community at events.

**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 (ABG), inspired Urban Greenscapes (UG) volunteers to carry on his vision of supporting the Monarch Butterfly

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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?**

The community may benefit from the development of natural and boulevard gardening resources to accompany bylaw changes, or perhaps an online, interactive map displaying a catalog of naturalization project sites across the city. There is a need to increase local 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).

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

See below 'Selected Action Items Summary' for details of 2023 efforts.

## 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).**

Urban Greenscapes Facebook page is an ongoing public communication platform which enables sharing of information and resources to catalyze ideas for pollinator habitat creation and protection action. Notable activities for 2023 included: • The Magnificent Monarch presentation to Thunder Bay Field Naturalists to raise awareness about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, with free milkweed seed packets distributed to encourage members to plant native pollinator-friendly plants; • Online Garden & Pollinator Photo Contest encouraging members to share their beautiful garden images, with giveaway prizes such as milkweed seeds, native species gardening books, and monarch themed jewelry; and, • Installation of a Communication Bulletin Board at ABG to share info and events with the public.

### 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 MMP - Action Summary with Pictures - City of Thunder Bay.pdf

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

611

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

800

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

EcoSuperior, Adelaide Butterfly Garden, Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, Thunder Bay Horticultural Society, Friends of the Thunder Bay Conservatory, Superior Seed Producers, Roots Community Food Centre, Seeds of Diversity, Gilles Community Centre

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

20

**What species were collected or propagated?**

American Alumroot, American Herucha, Black-eyed Susan, blue Giant Hyssop, Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod, Blue Vervain, Blue-Eyed Grass, Canada Milk Vetch, Canada Tick Trefoil, Canada Wild Onion, Cardinal Flower, Common Milkweed, Cup Plant, Dense Blazing Star, Evening Primrose, Field Goldenrod, Foxglove Beardtongue, Great Blue Lobelia, Great Canada St. John’s Wort, Green-headed Coneflower, Grey-headed Coneflower, Hairy Mountain Mint, Harebell, Hairy Beardtongue, Hoary Vervain, Jacob's Ladder, June Grass, Lakeside Daisy, Lance-Leaf Coreopsis, Large-flowered Beardtongue, Many-flowered Yarrow, Narrowleaf Mountain Mint, Narrowleaf Mountainmint, New England Aster, Obedient Plant, Ohio Spiderwort, Orange Butterfly Weed, Pale Purple Coneflower, Pasqueflower, Pearly Everlasting, Prairie Dock, Prairie Smoke, Purple Avens, Purple Giant Hyssop, Purple Prairie Clover, Rattlesnake Master, Robin’s Plantain, Scarlet Beebalm, Self-Heal (var. lanceolata), Showy Goldenrod, Showy Milkweed, Silverrod, Silver Sage, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Strawberry Spinach, Swamp Milkweed, Sweet White Violet, Upland White Goldenrod, Virgin’s Bower, Virginia Mountain Mint, Virginia Mountain-mint, White Heath Aster, White Heath Aster, Whorled Milkweed, Wild Bergamot, Wild Blue Flax, Wild Columbine, Wild Geranium, Wild Paintbrush, Yellow Coneflower, Yellow Rattle, Yellow Wild Indigo, and more

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

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Adelaide Butterfly Garden, Urban Greenscapes

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

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Each year, Urban Greenscapes volunteers harvest, clean and package Ontario native wildflower seeds grown at Adelaide Butterfly Garden. Seeds sold and donated to Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) were used in their 2023 greenhouse growing projects. Urban Greenscapes members were invited to participate in LRCA seedling potting-up events. These wildflowers then made their way into the local landscape through multiple public planting events at various local restoration and conservation sites. The Adelaide Butterfly Garden Grow One, Keep One winter sowing project was a major success, with many varieties of Ontario native species wildflowers being grown in pots and milk jugs by residents across the city. Hundreds of these seedlings were donated back to expand the and for adding into other greenspaces.

## 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)**

Thunder Bay's first roundabout on a main city street incorporated a colourful medicine wheel design in its concrete apron. The interior of the wheel and surrounding Edward Street and Redwood Avenue medians were planted with over 10,000 medicinal plants and Ontario native wildflowers to support biodiversity, with plaques highlighting traditional plant uses and meanings. Roundabout location: 48.394115, -89.277821). More garden projects are described in the attached Action Summary.

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

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.**

0.05

## 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?**

Urban Greenscapes, Adelaide Butterfly Garden, Friends of Brent Park, EcoSuperior

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

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200

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

Urban Greenscapes volunteers grew milkweed and Ontario native wildflower plant species for addition to Adelaide Butterfly Garden, Brent Park Wildflower Hill, EcoSuperior Rain Garden, and other greenspaces around the city. Some of the new plant species grown and added this year include: American Alumroot, American Herucha, Black-eyed Susan, blue Giant Hyssop, Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod, Blue Vervain, Blue-Eyed Grass, Canada Milk Vetch, Canada Tick Trefoil, Canada Wild Onion, Cardinal Flower, Common Milkweed, Cup Plant, Dense Blazing Star, Evening Primrose, Field Goldenrod, Foxglove Beardtongue, Great Blue Lobelia, Great Canada St. John's Wort, Green-headed Coneflower, Grey-headed Coneflower, Hairy Mountain Mint, Harebell, Hairy Beardtongue, Hoary Vervain, Jacob's Ladder, June Grass, Lakeside Daisy, Lance-Leaf Coreopsis, Large-flowered Beardtongue, Many-flowered Yarrow, Narrowleaf Mountain Mint, Narrowleaf Mountainmint, New England Aster, Obedient Plant, Ohio Spiderwort, Orange Butterfly Weed, Pale Purple Coneflower, Pasqueflower, Pearly Everlasting, Prairie Dock, Prairie Smoke, Purple Avens, Purple Giant Hyssop, Purple Prairie Clover, Rattlesnake Master, Robin's Plantain, Scarlet Beebalm, Self-Heal (var. lanceolata), Showy Goldenrod, Showy Milkweed, Silverrod, Silver Sage, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Strawberry Spinach, Swamp Milkweed, Sweet White Violet, Upland White Goldenrod, Virgin's Bower, Virginia Mountain Mint, Virginia Mountain-mint, White Heath Aster, White Heath Aster, Whorled Milkweed, Wild Bergamot, Wild Blue Flax, Wild Columbine, Wild Geranium, Wild Paintbrush, Yellow Coneflower, Yellow Rattle, Yellow Wild Indigo, and more

## Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator_Garden_Sign_Final.pdf

**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).**

No mow signs were posted on all seven Leland Avenue medians to raise awareness about the pollinator habitat creation project taking place there. City of Thunder Bay installed three permanent interactive educational signs in public pollinator gardens which invite one to search for the life cycle stages of the Monarch Butterfly. New plants added into the Adelaide Butterfly Garden were labelled with common and scientific names so visitors can identify them. Sign locations: Hillcrest Park, Baggage Building, and Chapples Golf Course Clubhouse. The full sign is attached.

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

### 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.

In progress

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

City of Thunder Bay Boulevard Garden Working Group continues to explore policy changes to allow boulevard gardening on city right of ways. The new by-law is anticipated to be finalized in 2024. Thunder Bay’s first Median Naturalization Project on Leland Avenue was approved by City Council to continue until 2026. City staff visited the medians several times to remove invasive plant species, and residents did a garbage clean up. An online iNaturalist project was created to catalog the meadow’s evolution, and the wide variety of life it supports: https://inaturalist.ca/projects/leland-avenue-naturalization-project

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