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 Mayors' Monarch Pledge to strengthen Thunder Bay's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability. 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 2024

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

2450

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

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.

Adelaide Butterfly Garden (420 Adelaide Street, Thunder Bay), Leland Street Median, Edward Street and Redwood Avenue Roundabout, various City parks and parkettes, LRCA restoration sites

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

The Urban Greenscapes group has partnered with Roots Community Food Centre to provide programming for urban indigenous youth in the Adelaide Butterfly Garden.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

Thunder Bay residents (especially those involved in Urban Greenscapes) are extremely interested in naturalizing underutilized greenspaces throughout the City. This community support is driving the City to turn away from colonial turfgrass standards, and towards planting a biodiverse range of native and adaptive plants instead. These plants beautify our community, and create habitat for the pollinators that call our City home too. As such, working on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge allows us to showcase the amazing work done in partnership with several community groups.

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 would love to see more resources around By-Laws for Biodiversity.

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

n/a

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Action 22 (1).jpg

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

20

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

The Adelaide Butterfly Garden has added 20 new signs that include images of plants to identify species, both common and Latin name, QR codes that will take you directly to Wikipedia to that specific plant for additional information. New plants added into the Adelaide Butterfly Garden were also labeled with common and scientific names so visitors can identify them. More signage like these to be added in the 2025 season.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

Action 2 (1).jpg

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

Action 2 (2).jpg

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

Action 2 (3).jpg

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

Action 2 (4).jpg

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

Action 2 (5).jpg

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

Action 2 (6).jpg

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

Action 2 (7).jpg

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

Action 2 (8).jpg

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

Action 2 (9).jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Action 2 (10).jpg

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

1. Social Media Presence - The Urban Greenscapes Facebook group is constantly adding and inviting new members. The group has approximately 2300 members and continues to function as a platform for education where members can share information, ask questions, post photographs of pollinators and their habitat, and keep up with Urban Greenscape Volunteer activities. 2. Seed Cleaning Events (Winter 2024) - the Adelaide Butterfly Garden hosted several seed cleaning events at Roots to Harvest Community Centre. Native seed were been harvested from the Garden during late Fall 2023, and community members were invited to join Urban Greenscapes to clean them in Winter 2024. 3. Seedy Saturdays (March 2024) - Urban Greenscape Volunteers attended Seedy Saturday events 2024. These events were a great opportunity to share the native seed harvested from Adelaide Butterfly garden and to encourage community members to start their own pollinator habitat. Demonstrations and informative presentations were provided along with seed exchanges and an opportunity for sharing information about pollinators and their need for habitat. 4. Invasive Species Hand-outs (Spring 2024) - Urban Greenscapes Volunteers delivered sixteen invasive species information packages to local plant nurseries in Thunder Bay. Each package was filled with information that related to invasive species that are still being sold by our local nurseries (i.e. Goutweed and Lily of the Valley) and provided suggestions of what to plant instead. 5. Learning Indigenous Stewardship Event (July 13, 2024) - Elder Tony DePerry joined community members at the Adelaide Butterfly Garden to share his views on Indigenous Stewardship through the TD Parks People program. The day included activities for children, an opportunity to tour the garden a garden blessing and smudge by Tony. 6. Roots to Harvest Youth Days (Summer 2024) - the Adelaide Butterfly Garden was invited to Roots to Harvest to work with their youth group. This was a great opportunity to educate our youth on the importance of our pollinators and our ecosystem by creating biodiverse habitats that attract and sustain pollinators. During this event, the group learned why the Adelaide Butterfly Garden was created and how to identify different native plants. The youth group also folded seed packs from recycled paper and learned how the seed is harvested. 7. Monarch Appreciation Day (September 18, 2024) - Urban Greenscapes submitted a proclamation application to the City of Thunder Bay to recognize September 18 as Monarch Butterfly Appreciation Day in honour of Dan Fulton. Dan was instrumental in founding the Adelaide Butterfly Garden at Boulevard Lake. On September 18, 2024, dedicated volunteers celebrated Dan’s love of the Monarch Butterfly by continuing his mission to raise awareness about the need for pollinator habitat, and the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles and so many other pollinators. The Acting Mayor announced the proclamation during the event, and community members were invited to plant native species in the garden, take native seeds home, and participate activities at a craft table or do a scavenger hunt before releasing monarch butterflies. 8. Superior Garden Group Presentation (October 2024) – Urban Greenscapes Volunteers provided the Superior Garden Group with an informative presentation about the Adelaide Butterfly Garden, the life cycle of monarch butterflies, and how to start your own butterfly garden. 9. Seed Harvest Event (November 16, 2024) – the community was invited to the Adelaide Butterfly Garden to harvest seed from native plants

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

to use for future events. There was also a winter sowing demonstration that provided participants with the materials to winter sow at home.

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 (1).jpg

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

Action 12 (2).jpg

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

Action 12 (3).jpg

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

Action 12 (4).jpg

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

Action 12 (5).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)

Adelaide Butterfly Garden (420 Adelaide Street Thunder Bay)

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

City of Thunder Bay Staff, Urbangreenscapes Volunteers, Roots Community Food Centre Youth Group

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

September 18, 2024

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Monarch Appreciation Day in Honour of Dan Fulton

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Action 1 (1).jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Action 2 (6).jpg

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?

City of Thunder Bay, Urban Greenscapes

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.

ACTION 1: No mow signs were posted on all seven Leland Avenue medians to raise awareness about the pollinator habitat creation project taking place there. There have been several no mow sites that you will find in parkettes and City parks to allow for pollinator habitat and no mow advantages. ACTION 2: City of Thunder Bay Administration presented the first report of a Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law to City Council on September 23, 2024. City Council will discuss and review the revised By-law on December

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

16, 2024. The creation of the proposed By-law was spurred by Urban Greenscapes Volunteer, Kyla Moore, when she made a deputation to City Council requesting that they allow residents to plant native and adaptive species on City boulevards rather than the current turfgrass standard in 2021. Over the past three years, Kyla has encouraged residents and service industries to voice their opinion and call for biodiversity-supporting changes to the proposed By-law. This has involved going door to door with informative pamphlets and garden signs, and hosting community events to share information and ideas about boulevard gardening. To date, there has been many positive amendments made to the Bylaw. If this By-law is passed, Thunder Bay will be a pioneer in the By-Laws for Biodiversity Movement.

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)

1055 seed packages

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

1055

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

Urban Greenscapes, Roots to Harvest, Nolalu Community Centre, South Gilles Community Centre

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 (1).jpg

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

120

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed

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

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA), Urban Greenscapes, Roots to Harvest

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]

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

1. LRCA Donation (Fall 2023 to Winter 2024) Adelaide Butterfly Garden provided harvested seed to LRCA that was both purchased and donated in 2023. That seed was then grown in the LRCA greenhouse and used in restoration projects throughout the City of Thunder Bay conservation sites. Those plants are now harvested by LRCA to be used in their current and future restoration projects. 2. Seed Cleaning Events (Winter 2024) - the Adelaide Butterfly Garden hosted several seed cleaning events at Roots to Harvest Community Centre. Native seed were been harvested from the Garden during late Fall 2023, and community members were invited to join Urban Greenscapes to clean them in Winter 2024. 3. Seed Harvest Event (Fall 2024) – the community was invited to the Adelaide Butterfly Garden to harvest seed from native plants to use for future events. There was also a winter sowing demonstration that provided participants with the materials to winter sow at home.

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, City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

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

865

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 and other greenspaces around the City. Furthermore, the City of Thunder Bay also planet swamp milkweed at several parks locations including the medicine wheel roundabout at Edward Street and Redwood Avenue, the Charry Park DePave Project, the Boulevard Lake Engineered Wetland, and the Fishermans Park Wetland. The Adelaide Butterfly Garden also provided both harvested and purchased seed to the LRCA in Fall 2023. The seed was germinated in the LRCA greenhouses in Spring 2024, and used in Summer 2024’s restoration projects and plant pull events. Incredibly, the LRCA will harvest these new plants again and use them in their 2025 restoration projects.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u551:v1.14.0.49966]