Town of York

York, ME

Selectboard, Chair Todd Frederick

Pledge Summary

The Town of York, comprised of Cape Neddick, York Harbor, York Village and York Beach, is in the southern tip of Maine and has a population of over 13,000 year-round residents. This coastal community is home to the Nubble Lighthouse, Mount Agamenticus, and is famous for its long sandy beaches. York also has large areas of forest, community parks, fields, and green space along with some of the highest levels of biodiversity in the state. In our recent Comprehensive Plan, a top goal is to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resources to include wildlife habitat. We are pledging to help protect and increase public awareness of Maine's native pollinators, to include the monarch butterfly, and their habitats.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Communications and Convening

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Selectboard, Chair Todd Frederick	2026	3/27/2026	
Selectboard, Chair Todd Frederick	2025	2/3/2025	Signatories
Selectboard, Chair Todd Frederick	2024	3/22/2024	Signatories
Selectboard, Chair Todd Frederick	2023	2/10/2023	Leadership Circle

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Action Items

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.

0

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

Pollinator species like the monarch are vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems. The Town was already doing work to help support and protect pollinator habitat, and the Pledge continues to serve as an inspiration to continue that work.

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?

Communication templates helpful. Could be useful to have a list of global "holidays" to cross-reference (example: No Mow May, World Wildlife Day, etc.).

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.).

500

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, parks, schools

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

Programs and events put on by Parks and Recreation Dept. and Mount Agamenticus Conservation have all been free to York residents.

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.)

200

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

The population of York is just under 14,000 people. Numbers of adults/children noted is an estimated participation counts from planned programming and events specifically. At the time of this report, acreage created is unknown, though we do know a number of people in town utilized the Common Milkweed seeds and plants we gave away as part of greater habitat restoration projects on private property.

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).

Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program continued ongoing educational and outreach efforts via social media accounts, e-mail lists, and in-person events/programming to encourage creating and maintaining habitat for all pollinators. Distributed Common Milkweed seeds and printed educational materials at "Green Team Trash-a-thon/Fun Fest" community event at Coastal Ridge Elementary. Mount Agamenticus visitor center includes two pollinator activities: 1) Pollinator tracking at Mount Agamenticus is a tangible introduction to Community Science; 2) Pollinator Garden activity introduces pollinator syndromes and shows how to attract and support pollinators through habitat creation/manipulation. Upcoming programming for the 2025 season includes a collaboration with The Center for Wildlife focused on developing and maintaining backyard habitats. Program description as follows: "How can we be good neighbors? When we think about community, wildlife sometimes gets left out, but our backyards are home to an incredible variety of wild species. Sharing space with wildlife comes with a multitude of benefits. Join the Center for Wildlife and the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program to learn all about cohabitation with our wild neighbors. We’ll start our program with a presentation featuring some of the Center’s live animal Ambassadors, learning the roles that each of these unique species plays in our environment. After a brief walk to explore the summit’s shrubland habitat and native plant species, we’ll finish the evening with a bird box building workshop. Activity level: easy."

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

150

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

Town of York Parks and Recreation Department, Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program, Coastal Ridge Elementary School "Green Team," Old York Garden Club, Time of Wonder Learning Center

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

june_common_milkweed.jpg

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

common_milkweed_story.png

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

Insta Stories June 2024.png

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

6-8_FB_post.png

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

450

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

200

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

Conservation Program staff harvested seeds locally during the fall and rolled into seed "bombs" for distribution to the public at the summit of Mount Agamenticus, along with planting and species information. Remaining seeds will be cold stratified for use in the spring. Distributed approximately 500 seed bombs that were packaged ~2 per packet, so probably gave away to 200-250 members of the public.

What species were collected or propagated?

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Common Milkweed Asclepias syriaca, Butterfly Milkweed Asclepias tuberosa

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

Town of York Parks and Recreation Department, Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program

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

fall_seed_bomb1.jpg

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

fall_seed_bomb2.jpg

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

fall_seed_bomb3.jpg

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

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

Parks Natural Resource Manager presented to Old York Garden Club in February to highlight and demonstrate what plants were successful in the native plant beds of Mount Agamenticus. Shared funding and other resources thru the club's network. Staffed a table with additional information and engaged garden club members during the social session.

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.

15

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.

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The Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program continued an ongoing invasive plant species removal program that primarily utilizes hand pulling; removal methods depend on specific species. Ongoing work with the York Conservation Commission includes developing a one-stop resource for regional invasive information, which will be available at: https://agamenticus.org/community-conservation/regional-invasive-plant-resources/ The Town of York was also successful in applying to the Maine Forest Service (MFS) for funding an Invasive Plant Control Practice Plan (IPCPP) for over 25 acres at Goodrich Park owned by the Town of York, ME. An approved State Forester surveyed and submitted the final plan. The Town will be eligible to go back to the MFS to seek funding for plan implementation next year. Part of the mitigation and restoration for this area will involve the planting and re-establishment of native habitats to include those for pollinators.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2

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

At this time, the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program is utilizing "Regrowth Area" signs at multiple locations within the summit park. The temporary laminate signs from last year will be replaced next season with more prominent "What's Growing Here" signs with information on multiple flowering plants (including Mountain Mint, Goldenrod, Asters, and Milkweeds). New interpretive access panels were funded, designed and fabricated this year. These will be installed in the spring and include information about native habitats to include the summit shrubland and the benefits to birds and pollinator insects.

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