Town of Oakville

Town of Oakville, ON

Mayor Rob Burton

Pledge Summary

Oakville, Ontario is a growing community located in the west-end of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The town's livability, strong job market, and continued investment from industry leaders have earned Oakville a reputation as one of Canada's top 20 best locations for investment. With a growing population of 215, 700, Oakville is adamant on preserving its existing green spaces, heritage designations, parks and trails with much focus on Gold/Silver LEED certified facilities and an electric bus fleet with emphasis on increasing ridership. It's trails, parks, waterfront, green spaces, community facilities, and clean air in Oakville contribute greatly to this town's success. It has more trees, bicycle lanes, and green space per capita than Edmonton, Vancouver, or Victoria. As noted by the World Council on City Data, Oakville is at the forefront of improving air quality, and this is further evidenced by Oakville's own Health Protection Air Quality Bylaw. Oakville remains committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. By signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, it looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Rob Burton	2024	1/3/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Rob Burton	2023	3/17/2023	Leadership Circle

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.

3

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

To contribute to conservation efforts for the monarch butterfly, enhance biodiversity, and promote environmental sustainability.

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?

To expand equitable engagement, resources like community workshops, inclusive planning committees, and accessible green spaces can be helpful.

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.).

24

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.

In Oakville, habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators are being created in various areas including community gardens like Kingsford Gardens, Lyons Lane, Memorial Park, and Shell Park, as well as other public spaces, educational institutions, and possibly private residences. The collaborative efforts between the Town of Oakville, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, and community volunteers contribute to the creation and maintenance of these habitats.

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

Organizing inclusive events, partnering with community organizations, and providing educational resources.

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.)

0 youths 24 adults

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

The conservation efforts in the Halton Region, including those in the Town of Oakville, encompass a variety of initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and protecting natural habitats. Here are some of the key efforts and roles played by the Town of Oakville and other stakeholders in the region: Regulatory Mapping Update by Conservation Halton: Conservation Halton has undertaken a significant review and update of regulatory mapping, such as flood hazard, wetland, and watercourse mapping, over the past few years to better manage and protect natural resources1. Tree Planting Initiative: A joint investment exceeding $1.6 million was announced for two projects to plant over 122,345 trees across the Halton Region. This initiative involved the Halton Region Conservation Authority, Trees for Halton Hills, and the federal government, showcasing a collaborative effort towards enhancing green cover in the region2. Halton Tree By-law: Enacted in 2006, the Halton Tree By-law aims to promote healthy forests, protect forest ecosystems, prevent poor logging practices, and regulate tree harvesting. It represents a regulatory framework to ensure tree conservation and good forestry practices within the region3. Halton Climate Collective: The Halton Climate Collective comprises environmental leaders from various sectors, including the Town of Oakville. They work together to address climate change challenges and strive to create a climate-resilient, low-carbon community in Halton4. Community Engagement and Education: Programs like Halton Food, Halton Green Screens, OakvilleReady, and Generation Green are part of broader efforts to educate and engage the

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community on environmental issues. They cover sustainable food production, environmental awareness through film screenings, community resilience to extreme weather, and youth engagement in climate action5. Depave Paradise Program: This program, facilitated by the Halton Environmental Network, focuses on removing impermeable surfaces like asphalt and replacing them with native species gardens to improve soil permeability and promote native biodiversity5. Invasive Species Removal and Biodiversity Enhancement: Events like the one organized by Conservation Halton on Indian Ridge Trail in Oakville, which involved removing invasive species and planting trees and wildflowers, are part of ongoing 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).

The Town of Oakville in Ontario has made concerted efforts to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. This initiative is part of the broader Mayors' Monarch Pledge administered by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Here are some of the steps taken by the Town of Oakville as part of their public communication efforts to encourage the cultivation of monarch gardens: Community Engagement: The town has engaged with community garden groups urging them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants which are vital for monarch butterflies. They've also collaborated with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and to initiate milkweed/native nectar plant planting programs. Moreover, they've engaged with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders to identify opportunities to create monarch habitats. Proclamation: A proclamation was issued to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. Online Communication: The Town of Oakville has an official YouTube channel which features a collection of videos about various town programs, facilities, and initiatives which could include information and encouragement about monarch gardens. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXeaw0ECOMs Information on Parks, Trails, and Gardens: Through platforms like Visit Oakville, there is information on parks, trails, and gardens in Oakville, which includes over 1,400 hectares of parkland and more than 200 parks. This platform may serve as a medium to encourage and inform residents about monarch gardens. https://visitoakville.com/experience-oakville/get-outside/parks-trails-gardens/#:~:text=Bike%2C%20hike%20and%20picnic%20in,who%20love%20the%20great%20outdoors The initiative aligns with the broader goal of creating habitable environments for monarch butterflies, which have seen a significant decline in population. Through these communication and engagement efforts, Oakville aims to foster a community that is aware of and actively participating in the conservation of monarch butterflies by cultivating monarch-friendly gardens.

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.

he Town of Oakville has made efforts to engage with community garden groups and encourage the planting of native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants, key steps to support the local pollinator population, including monarch butterflies. Here's a summary of the information found regarding their engagement with community garden groups: Community Engagement: Under the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Oakville committed to engaging with community garden groups to urge the planting of native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants. They also aimed to work with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability staff, and others to identify opportunities to revise and maintain planting programs for these native plants in community gardens. Oakvillegreen Conservation Association: This local conservation association in Oakville plays a role in supporting pollinators by promoting the planting of native plants, including milkweed, which is essential for monarch butterflies. They offer ready-made pollinator kits and host a Native Plant Sale, and encourage residents to replace part of their lawn with a pollinator garden or add container pollinator gardens to their deck or balcony. They specifically mention incorporating caterpillar host plants such as Milkweed in gardens. https://www.oakvillegreen.org/learn Pollinator Gardens: A segment of Oakville's engagement was also through promoting the establishment of pollinator gardens. While this may not directly reference engagement with community garden groups, it aligns with the broader objective of creating supportive environments for pollinators, including monarch butterflies, by planting native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants. Through these channels, the Town of Oakville, along with local conservation organizations, facilitates community engagement to promote the planting of native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants, fostering a supportive habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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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)

Kingsford Gardens Pollinator Pathway

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

Town of Oakville and OakvilleGreen Conservation

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.

1.7

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)

4

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

Yes, the Town of Oakville displays educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitats as part of their initiative to promote awareness and education on the importance of these ecosystems. Here are some aspects of how educational signage is integrated into their initiatives: Educational Signage Display: Under the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, the Town of Oakville has committed to displaying educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitats. The signage aims to provide information to the public about the importance of these habitats for biodiversity, especially for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. https://www.oakvillegreen.org/pollinator-gardens Community Engagement: The Town of Oakville has partnered with local conservation organizations to engage the community in pollinator conservation efforts. For instance, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association collaborates with community volunteers to create and maintain pollinator gardens at various locations throughout Oakville. The gardens serve as demonstrations to show individuals how they can support local biodiversity and provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature. Glen Abbey Pollinator Garden: This particular garden, created in partnership with Oakvillegreen and located at the Glen Abbey Community Centre, serves as a teaching tool for Oakvillegreen workshops. It's a place where visitors can learn about the simplicity of converting a grass patch into a pollinator oasis. Although it's not explicitly mentioned, it's likely that educational signage is part of the learning resources provided in such gardens. The Town of Oakville has four community gardens where plots are available for rental to residents for non-commercial gardening purposes. These community gardens are located at the following sites: 1. Kingsford Gardens: 2480 Sherwood Heights 2. Lyons Lane: 659 Lyons Lane 3. Memorial Park: 120 Oak Park Boulevard (accessible garden tables available at this location) 4. Shell Park: 3307 Lakeshore Road West123. These gardens provide designated spaces for residents who have rented plots to use for gardening and are open between May 1 and October 31 each year. Through these community gardens, the Town of Oakville encourages residents to engage in gardening activities, thereby promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement.

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:

May 2023

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

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Proclamation.pdf

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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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

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

climate-emergency-progress-report.pdf

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

bylaw-2002-153-anti-idling-consolidated.pdf

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

Halton Region Conservation, Oakville Green Conservation

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

Oakville is on a mission to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Interim goals are set to reduce energy consumption by 20% and GHG emissions by 30% by 2024, both based on a 2015 baseline. Community-driven initiatives are underway to slash energy costs and emissions. On April 25, 2022, two pivotal reports were presented at a council meeting, showcasing Oakville's dedication to the 2019 Climate Emergency declaration. The first report highlighted three initiatives to boost engagement and accountability in climate efforts. The second report depicted corporate energy and carbon emissions reduction efforts, indicating a promising trajectory towards surpassing the 2030 interim targets with a 24.7% decrease in energy use and a 29.3% reduction in carbon emissions over a 2014 baseline. Guidelines are in place for sustainable building designs, earning Oakville a Green Building Award. The town's Electric Vehicle Initiative, marked by the transformation of the Ford plant, is set to spur electric vehicle production and job opportunities. Being one of the 25 Canadian municipalities excelling in local climate action, Oakville bagged a Mitigation Badge, reflecting its community-wide commitment to tackling climate change. The 2050 Net Zero Carbon target aligns with the federal Pan-Canadian Framework, setting a high bar for corporate climate accountability. Oakville's "Fare-Free Program for Youth and Seniors" has sparked a significant change in how our community travels. The program has made commuting both affordable and accessible, leading to a notable rise in transit use. Here's a breakdown of the increase: • Seniors: +102% • Youth: +86% • Adults: +8% This uptick translates to an impressive 12,300 extra boardings every week. With the convenience of a $6 PRESTO card, we're on track to see over 510,000 additional boardings by the year's end, with youth and seniors being the primary beneficiaries. This surge in public transit use has empowered many residents to opt for buses over personal automobiles. By choosing transit, they not only contribute to a greener Oakville but also support the local economy, traveling across town and spending in places they hadn't considered before. Our integration of technology, like the real-time bus tracking app and the Ride On-Demand program, especially benefits residents of Wards 3 and 7, making transit more flexible and efficient. Looking ahead to 2024, our projections are promising. This year we saw the number of young and senior passengers go beyond the numbers we saw before the pandemic — by 20% for youth and 38% for seniors. Moreover, August 2023 registered a 50% increase in ridership compared to the same month in 2022. The second week of September even set a record with 16,500 riders. Oakville Transit is not just about movement; it's about smart, convenient, and economically savvy choices for our residents.Oakville's "Fare-Free Program for Youth and Seniors" has sparked a significant change in how our community travels. The program has made commuting both affordable and accessible, leading to a notable rise in transit use. Here's a breakdown of the increase: • Seniors: +102% • Youth: +86% • Adults: +8% This uptick translates to an impressive 12,300 extra boardings every week. With the convenience of a $6 PRESTO card, we're on track to see over 510,000 additional boardings by the year's end, with youth and seniors being the primary beneficiaries. This surge in public transit use has empowered many residents to opt for buses over personal automobiles. By choosing transit, they not only contribute to a greener Oakville but also support the local economy, traveling across town and spending in places they hadn't considered before. Our integration of technology, like the real-time bus tracking app and the Ride On-Demand program, especially benefits residents of Wards 3 and 7, making transit more flexible and efficient. Looking ahead to 2024, our projections are promising. This year we saw the number of young and senior passengers go beyond the numbers we saw before the pandemic — by 20% for youth and 38% for seniors. Moreover, August 2023 registered a 50% increase in ridership compared to the same month in 2022. The second week of September even set a record with 16,500 riders. Oakville Transit is not just about movement; it's about smart, convenient, and economically savvy choices for our residents.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

In Progress

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

A public notice from the town, there's an initiative to control weeds along specific roadsides and parks using a pesticide named Finalsan Pro Commercial Concentrate, which is registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada)1. https://www.oakville.ca/town-hall/news-notices/2022-public-notices-archive/public-notice-of-pesticide-use-in-2022/ The active ingredient in this pesticide is a soap (ammonium salt of fatty acids), which tends to be less harmful compared to synthetic chemical pesticides. Additionally, the town of Oakville provides guidelines for residents on how to support pollinators through environmentally friendly gardening practices. They encourage residents to choose environmentally friendly alternatives to herbicides and pesticides, which are known to kill native plants and the pollinators that feed on them . https://www.oakville.ca/home-environment/environment/sustainable-living/lawns-gardens/

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

Volunteers

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

The Town of Oakville has displayed an inclination towards promoting the planting of native and diverse plant species, particularly in boulevard gardens, as a means to beautify roadsides, reduce water usage, and improve the health of the local ecosystem. The town encourages residents to plant gardens on their boulevards, which are the green spaces between the road and property lines or sidewalks, with a preference for well-chosen, non-invasive plants. Although permits are no longer required for planting a boulevard garden, it is encouraged that the gardens do not obstruct drivers' vision or prevent viewing traffic in all directions. Furthermore, the town provides advice on planting a pollinator garden to support pollinators who are facing population decline due to various environmental challenges. The guidance includes planting a variety of native pollinator-friendly flowers, choosing a diverse range of native flowering plants, and avoiding the complete mowing of large natural meadows which provide both food and nesting habitats for pollinators.

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

community volunteers

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

In Progress

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

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.

Noxious Weed By-law: Oakville has a by-law concerning noxious weeds as per the Weed Control Act. This by-law might have provisions regarding the maintenance and control of native and non-native vegetation. https://pub-oakville.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=56505 Boulevard Gardens: The Town of Oakville encourages residents to plant well-chosen, non-invasive plants to beautify roadsides, reduce water usage, and decrease the need for mowing and fertilizers. This indicates a support for the establishment of native and diverse plant species, which could be part of a broader initiative to amend mowing practices to foster native habitats. https://www.oakville.ca/home-environment/environment/sustainable-living/lawns-gardens/#:~:text=Boulevard%20gardens%20beautify%20our%20roadsides,encourages%20residents%20to%20plant Municipal By-laws: The Town of Oakville maintains and provides access to municipal by-laws, which could potentially include changes to weed or mowing ordinances to support native prairie and plant habitats. This remains an ongoing effort.

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

community volunteers

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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.

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

there are over 1,400 hectares of parkland in Oakville, encompassing more than 200 various parks, dog parks, playgrounds, skateboard parks, sports fields, and tennis courts, along with 200 kilometers of trails1. The municipal Parks Operations team manages these areas, including municipal parks, open spaces, trails, flower beds, cemeteries, and harbours, providing operational, maintenance, management, and stewardship services to enhance the quality of life and environment for residents and visitors.

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.

there's an active community engagement in invasive species removal through organizations like the Oakville Community Centre for Peace, Ecology and Human Rights (OCCPEHR), which organizes annual Earth Day cleanups of Oakville's nature sites, as seen in their activity planned for Earth Day 2023. https://oakvillenews.org/oakville-community-news/earth-day-2023-clean-ups-in-oakville/#:~:text=Oakville%20Community%20Centre%20for%20Peace%2C,organizers%20encourage%20participants%20to Additionally, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association collaborates with community volunteers to remove common invasive plant species from Oakville parks and greenspace, a program supported by the Town of Oakville. The Parks Operations team, under the Town's Parks and Open Space department, is responsible for managing municipal parks, open spaces, trails, flower beds, cemeteries, and harbours, providing operational, maintenance, management, and stewardship services to enhance the quality of life and environment for residents and visitors. https://www.oakville.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-gardens-trails/parks/#:~:text=Parks%20Operations,for%20our%20residents%20and%20visitors

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

3360

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Glen Abbey Pollinator Garden was created at the Glen Abbey Community Centre since May 2015 in partnership with the Town of Oakville and with the help of many dedicated volunteers. This butterfly-shaped native plant garden sits just outside the library window, west of the main entrance. It is used as a teaching tool for Oakvillegreen workshops. It also serves as an outdoor space for visitors of the library and community centre.

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

OakvilleGreen Conservation and Halton Region Conservation

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

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.

unknown at this time

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Routine care, watering, weeding, and other maintenance activities carried out to ensure the sustainability of these pollinator-friendly environments.

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

The Town of Oakville has indeed taken steps to create and maintain pollinator-friendly environments. In collaboration with the Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, the town has been involved in various projects aimed at supporting local biodiversity and creating pollinator gardens at different locations throughout Oakville. Here are some of the initiatives and

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efforts made in Oakville: Kingsford Gardens Pollinator Pathway: Launched in 2020, this pilot project between Oakvillegreen and the Town of Oakville aimed to transform a turfgrass area in Kingsford Gardens into a vibrant meadow ecosystem. In the fall of 2021, hundreds of native wildflowers and grasses were incorporated to provide food sources and habitats for foraging pollinators, nesting birds, and other wildlife. The project is expected to continue through 2022, with aims to improve carbon sequestration, mitigate flooding, and increase biodiversity in the park. Glen Abbey Pollinator Garden: Established at the Glen Abbey Community Centre in May 2015, this garden was created in partnership with the Town of Oakville. The butterfly-shaped native plant garden is used as a teaching tool for Oakvillegreen workshops and serves as an outdoor space for library and community centre visitors. The garden hosts various pollinator-friendly native plants including Butterfly Milkweed, Big Leaf Blue Aster, and Indian Grass among others. Butterfly Wing Garden at Oak Park: This garden, created in two phases starting in 2018, is located beside Wellspring Birmingham Gilgan House and overlooks the Oak Park ponds. It was designed in the shape of two butterfly wings and hosts various pollinator-friendly native plants. This project was facilitated with the support of the Town of Oakville and various community volunteers. While there isn't direct information about the planting of milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants specifically in medians and public rights-of-way, the aforementioned projects show a concerted effort by the Town of Oakville and local organizations to promote pollinator-friendly environments within the community.

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

0

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

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

100

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

Through the Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, Oakville has supported a Native Plant Sale, where ready-made pollinator kits, native trees, shrubs, and more are offered to the community. This sale event ran from April to May as part of the efforts to encourage residents to plant native species that support local pollinators like monarch butterflies

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

unknown at this time

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Conservation Halton Region, Oakville Green Conservation, Resident volunteers

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Oakville's Wildlife Conflict Protocols , Oakville's Biodiversity Strategy, Oakville's online coyote reporting system, and information on wildlife proofing your property and avoiding conflicts with wildlife.

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.

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

In Oakville, Ontario, the town's initiatives in parks, recreation, and tree planting demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement. The Parks, Recreation & Culture department offers a variety of programs and activities to encourage active and creative community involvement. These include programs for all ages, from skating and swimming to camps and senior services. Additionally, there are options for facility rentals and involvement in arts and culture events. Tree planting and maintenance are integral parts of Oakville's environmental initiatives. The town focuses on planting and maintaining trees in public spaces, encouraging residents to plant native species on their

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properties, and providing guidance on tree care. Special attention is given to the type of soil and the amount of water needed for newly planted trees, depending on their location. The town also offers advice on how to maintain trees, including tips on watering, mulching, and protecting them from damage. The Oakville Municipal Greenhouses and Conservatory play a role in beautifying the town with horticulture displays. These facilities change their displays seasonally for street boulevards and planters across Oakville. The Conservatory features a variety of plant life, a pond, and a waterfall, and offers volunteer opportunities, group tours, and event bookings. Furthermore, the Oakvillegreen Conservation Association actively contributes to the local environment through tree planting initiatives. They have planted over 35,500 trees in Oakville's natural areas and green spaces since 2000, with the help of volunteers. This effort is crucial for combating climate change and improving habitat diversity. Lastly, Oakville Hydro plays a significant role in vegetation management around power lines to ensure safety and reliability. They employ a systematic approach to maintain vegetation around high voltage and low voltage secondary lines, with a maintenance schedule covering the whole town every four years. The town plants trees considering the proximity to powerlines and follows healthy tree pruning techniques . These efforts collectively contribute to Oakville's commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

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

itree-growing-livability-report.pdf

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

Town of Oakville, Oakville Green Conservation, Siemens and resident volunteers

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The Town of Oakville, located in the west-end of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario, has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving its green spaces, parks, and trails. This dedication extends to creating habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Oakville's initiatives are part of its larger environmental sustainability efforts, which include preserving its existing green spaces, heritage designations, and focusing on Gold/Silver LEED-certified facilities and an electric bus fleet to increase ridership. One of the key steps Oakville has taken is signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This pledge signifies the town's commitment to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the city. The action items under this pledge for 2023 include launching or maintaining public communication efforts to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens, engaging with community garden groups to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants, and collaborating with city parks, recreation, public works, and sustainability staff to identify opportunities for planting and maintaining milkweed/native nectar plant programs. Additionally, the town is working on a comprehensive Housing Strategy and Action Plan, seeking public input to create a vibrant and livable community for all. This strategy will guide decision-making and actions to facilitate housing supply, accelerate housing delivery, and improve housing choice and affordability. The engagement with the public in this process could provide opportunities to integrate environmental and habitat considerations, like monarch habitat creation, into the town's future development plans. These efforts highlight Oakville's proactive approach to engaging with developers, planners, landscape architects, and community leaders in planning processes, particularly in identifying and creating opportunities for monarch habitat. The town's emphasis on community involvement, sustainable development, and environmental stewardship reflects a holistic approach to urban planning that prioritizes both human and ecological welfare .

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

APPENDIX A - housing strategy and action plan.pdf

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

In Progress

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

environment-biodiversity-strategy.pdf

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

community volunteers

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

Oakville is evolving into a bustling town while harmonizing with its natural allure. This year we planted 33,270 trees, marking an uptick of 1,065 trees from the previous year, embodying the town's urban living with green expanses. The expansion of our recreational avenues saw trails extended by 5 km, new roadway active transportation infrastructure like sidewalks and multi-use paths stretched by 25 km, and parkland increased by 87 hectares. Oakville now embraces 1,116 hectares of open spaces, woodlots, and undeveloped parkland. A notable Active Parkland ratio of 2.56 hectares per 1000 residents was achieved, showcasing a progressive increase in parkland area over the years. A fund of $1 million has been set aside for the establishment of eight more parks and for enhancing the Crosstown trail, which is a segment of a 60 km heritage trail network. Presently, Oakville boasts 235 parks. The trail betterment initiative encompasses the establishment of safer pedestrian crossings, updated signage, rest areas, and cycling amenities. Oakville has a Tree Canopy Coverage of 31.2%, which is the highest reported in Canada - showing we are making good progress. In South Dundas, the Tree Canopy Coverage went up from 26.5% in 2005 to 32.6% in 2018. In North Dundas, it was 27.8% in 2018. With eager anticipation for the 2024 carbon capture report, we are aiming to exceed the 5,940 tons of carbon captured in 2015. Oakville now offers 248 kilometers of recreational trails that weave through all communities and link various parts of the town, facilitating easy exploration of Oakville by foot or on a bicycle, inclusive of the recent extension of the Crosstown Trail.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Local and regional conservation groups as well as community volunteers

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

The Town of Oakville is looking to better understand how the community uses parks, recreation and culture facilities and libraries and is developing a Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan that will guide the current and future direction of these spaces. The town is engaging the community and gathering: Demographic data and growth forecasts Participation and usage levels and trends Best practices to help shape the master plan We recognize these community parks, recreation and culture facilities and libraries will need to continuously evolve over the next 30 years so they can continue to provide quality services that Oakville residents value. The town has hired Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, MJMA Architecture & Design, Tucker-Reid & Associates, Ron Koudys Landscape Architects, Rose Vespa Consulting and Largo Facility Management Consultants to prepare the plan. Monteith Brown will be working closely with the town to coordinate a variety of community outreach activities. What's next? Thank you to everyone who attended the open house opportunities offered between May 3 and 11, 2023. The town appreciates the time community members took to provide their feedback. If you have missed it, you can review the background information (pdf) shared at these open house opportunities. In addition, over 2,000 online surveys were completed between mid-April and the end of May. Staff will be focusing on reviewing and analyzing the feedback received, as well as best practices, participation trends, facility utilization and facility condition. Draft recommendations will be shared for community input early 2024. Past reports and presentations 2017 Five-year Review of the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (pdf) 2012 Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (pdf) 2011 Draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan – Staff Report (pdf) 2011 Draft Parks, Recreation and Library Facilities Master Plan (pdf) 2006 Parks, Recreation, Culture and Library Master Plan (pdf)

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

in progress

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

urban-forest-strategic-management-plan.pdf

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

forestry-north-oakville-urban-forest-strategic-management.pdf

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

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environment-biodiversity-strategy.pdf

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

itree-growing-livability-report.pdf

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