Abuzz For Wildlife in Eatontown

Borough of Eatontown, NJ

Mayor Anthony Talerico

Pledge Summary

The Borough of Eatontown has a population of roughly 13,500, and is located in central New Jersey near the coast. Eatontown has over 100 acres of parkland with two pollinator gardens as well as a very large community garden. Mayor Talerico has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with by signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge again this year. He looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the Borough.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Anthony Talerico, Jr.	2025	3/26/2025	
Mayor Anthony Talerico	2024	3/31/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Anthony Talerico, Jr.	2023	3/28/2023	Signatories

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.).

100

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.)

20

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.

.25

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.

Ideally we want to increase monarch habitat in every one of our parks. We also give away seeds all the time so we hope this has resulted in habitat in private residences. One of our schools planted a pollinator garden that included milkweed.

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

we plan to reach out but we provide free milkweed seeds and pollinator seed balls at Eatontown Day as well as both of our Open Houses.

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

It is the motivation of a small group of volunteers who care.

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?

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Our Recreation Department was very helpful - they purchasedthe two signs we have.

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

We have barely scratched the surface. There are patches of parkland that we planted with seeds but we have not seen the milkweed grow there yet. I will start seedlings and physically plant them.

Selected Action Items

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

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

MISST Oct 2024 pic.png

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

Monmouth Invasive Species Strike Team / Eatontown Environmental Commission, Green Team and Abuzz for Wildlife in Eatontown

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

5

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

As part of the Invasive mitigation work, we tried an experiment to plant 5 deer-resistant native perennials in a patch of the Arboretum that was once overrun with garlic mustard. This was done for free with donated plants. We planted them at our October 2024 invasive work party.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

PG signs .png

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

2

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

Our Recreation Department purchased two educational signs for our Monarch way station garden and our next door pollinator garden. Attached are photos of the installed signs.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

MISST June 2024 pic.png

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

MISST May 2024 pic.png

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

MISST Jan 2024 pic.png

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

MISST Sept 2024 pic.png

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

20 acres

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.

In 2024 we continued our all - volunteer invasive species strike team monthly work parties at our Arboretum. The Arboretum is 47 acres, so we estimate we have covered about 20 acres. Volunteers come out once a month and hand pull, lop, snip and saw invasive plants and vines. We celebrated our 3 year this year. We do not use herbicides or chemicals as we do not have any certification or approval to use them. We have tried to plant some native pollinator plants (mountain mint, bee balm, and wild bergamot) to see if they will establish themselves instead of the garlic mustard that grows there.

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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.

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

This action has yet to be done.

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

This action has yet to be done.

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

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

This action has yet to be done.

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

0

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

This action has yet to be done.

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

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

This action has yet to be done.

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

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This action has yet to be done.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

This action has yet to be done.

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

This action has yet to be done.

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

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

Abuzz for Wildlife in Eatontown, the Environmental Commission and Green Team

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.

The Environmental Commission researched and drafted an ordinance, which has been submitted to the Borough professionals for review. It depends on whether our Borough is responsive to provide feedback if any changes are needed before it goes to Council for workshop / introduction / passing.

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