City of Westmount

Westmount, Quebec, AL

Mayor Christina Smith

Pledge Summary

Westmount is an independent City located on the island of Montreal in Quebec, Canada. With a population of approximately 20,093, the City of Westmount is committed to encouraging residents to protect and build pollinator habitat throughout our territory. The City of Westmount is home to Summit Woods, an urban forest, community gardens, as well as 13 beautiful parks and greenspaces nestled on the western slopes of Mount Royal.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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

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- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Christina Smith	2025	3/21/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Christina Smith	2023	4/28/2023	

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.).

1500

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.

Right of ways and public spaces

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

Opportunities are avalable in all City sectors.

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

Public education for the plight of the butterfly

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?

More free multilingual materials for give aways

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

We are expanding initatives with other divisions and City departments to reach a greater number of people

Selected Action Items

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.

Public Works (Parks & Environment, Communications), Sports and Recreation. Westmount Public Library.

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

No Mow May - Expanstion of territories participating Free Milkweed and Pollinator Seed Mix Distribution from Library and at events Information Kiosks with seed distribution Replacement of public grass areas with pollinator seed mix (WRC Roof, Lexington Ave, Mount Pleasant, etc.)

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.

City council has approved projects where landscape architects and City planners have opted to use pollinator and Monarch friendly flowers in place of traditional grass areas.

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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)

The Monarch Demonstration Garden is located in our most prestigeous area: Westmount Park. It is in the shape of a butterfly and houses plants good for the Monarch. It is next to a "Story Walk" which sometimes houses stories related to Monarchs.

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

Public Works, Mayors Office and Library / Community Events Departments

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.

0.01

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?

Public Works

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

In progress. The City adds more locations each year and does publicity to encourage residents.

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

There is no "complete" because we want to expand each year. No Mow May is expanding City territory and we encourage residents to do the same on private property. New projects often include pollinator considerations.

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

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where appropriate.

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

Public Works

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.

Every year we reduce the amount of ornamental plants in public spaces for indegenous plants good for pollinators. We have public orchards, food gardens, milkweed areas. We mix ornamental plants with pollinators in City areas. We have a "Special Tree Distribution Program" where residents are offered one free tree to plant on private property. The choices often include indegenous trees which have benefits for pollinators.

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.

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

Public Works, Engineering

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.

We are always looking for new opportunities in City parks and greenspaces (new for 2026 will be on the roof of the WRC). We now have Engineering on board to use indegenous and pollinator plants in new areas that would traditionally use grass.

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?

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Public Works, Environment, Urban Planning, Public Security

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.

We are currently re working our bylaws to be even tighter againist the use of herbicides and pesticides. The City of Westmount does not use any of these chemicals in our internal operations in the parks and actively educate the public on the harms and alternative options.

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:

2021

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor Monarch Pledge.docx

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)

200

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

200

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

Native seeds are distributed through a "Seed Lending Library" which runs all year. Environment Division held information and distribution Kiosks in the summer. Parks

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Division held impromptu info sessons for day care and camps in the parks where seeds were given.

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)

Areas of King George Park, Lexington Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Recreation Center Rooftop, Story garden in Westmount Park, Argyle Park https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5IlgQVqBP0&feature=youtu.be

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

300

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.

1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

For established perennial plants, the dead flowers, seeds and wood stocks are left in winter and spring and are only cut as part of summer maintenance. For seeds, there is a cut and leave on the ground schedule to allow the seeds to regrow. Young plants are only cut twice a year for the first few years.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

We work with local schools, daycares and the elderly to promote pollinator planting initatives. Sometimes it is in City parks sometimes it is on private space. Examples: Local High School did a fundraiser for an entreprenurship class and purchased and planted pollinator plants in a major City Park. A partnership with a local elementary school resulted in the City turning an underused park into a "bird and bee" educational area. Partnered with

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a University student to bring attention to a new pollinator garden the City installed as part of their journalism class.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

6

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Edgar and Cramps School (elementrary and high schools), Concordia University.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

City Staff takes time to educate and guide students. Use of public spaces. Planting tools (soil, shovels, gloves,etc), various seed mixes.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

40 students and 10 educators

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

Public Works, school teachers.

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

.01

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Mature plants are cut once during the summer when other pollinator plants are in bloom. All pollinator plants are left for the fall, winter and spring months to encourage food and habitat during the bleakest times with the lest amount of food source/habitat.

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?

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Public Works

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

New installations generally use seeds, which is why we put 1000 as a guesstimate. It is hard to find the specific number of plants that will mature. Public milkweed and nectar producing plant areas are maintained by City parks staff and contractors.

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.

1

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.

Summit Woods in currently undergoing a master plan with interventions that include invasive species removal. Pollinator plants and milkweed are included in the types of species that are being reintroduced. In past interventions indegenous pollinators such as wild roses were planted.

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