Charter Township of Orion

Orion Township, MI

Township Supervisor Chris Barnett

Pledge Summary

Orion Township, Where Living is a Vacation, is a thriving community in Southeast Michigan with an estimated population of 40,000 residents. At 36 square miles, Orion Township is a slice of the best of Michigan's lakes, parks, schools, and communities - boasting more than 4,200 acres of parks and open spaces, including 42 lakes larger than five acres, more than 10 square miles of recreation, and more than 50 miles of safety path and trail ways. By signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Township Supervisor Barnett has committed Orion Township, MI to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the Township.

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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- 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.
- 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
Township Supervisor Chris Barnett	2026	1/7/2026	
Township Supervisor Chris Barnett	2025	1/14/2025	Leadership Circle
Township Supervisor Chris Barnett	2024	4/1/2024	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.).

70

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.)

15

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.

6

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.

Parks and common areas.

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

By providing educational opportunities for all residents of our community.

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

Orion's motivation came from a desire to demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability, protect local ecosystems and biodiversity, and raise awareness about the importance of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

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?

Funding opportunities and partnerships have been most helpful to Orion, in order to restore and expand native habitat in our community. These partnerships and funding have aloud Orion to create new green spaces for all of our residents to experience.

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

This pledge is helping create a lasting legacy of environmental care while engaging residents in positive, actionable change.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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.

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

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?

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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.

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.

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

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?

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

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.

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

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:

April 1, 2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

03.25.24 Proclamation - Mayors Monacrch Pledge.pdf

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

Ord 79 - Noxious Weeds.pdf

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

N/A

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

Complete

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.

04/24/08. Milkweed has not been included as a noxious weed in the Township since at least April 2008.

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

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

Orion Green Up 2024.png

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

2024 Milkweed Seed Giveaway Receipt.pdf

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

50 Milkweed Seed Packets

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

50

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

Waste Management and the Polly Ann Trail

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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.

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

Screenshot Pasadena Park Rendering.png

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)

3345 Pasadena, Lake Orion, MI 48359, in the historical Gingellville community. This garden is located along the main corridor of Orion Township.

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

America In Bloom

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.

0.55

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.

Members of local garden groups and residents interested in gardening with native plants attended a pollinator garden workshop hosted by Orion Township Parks.

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?

Local garden groups and residents interested in native plant gardening.

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

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64

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Members of the community came together to help plant a pollinator garden at our community food garden. The plants were provided by Orion Township Parks and the group was lead by Orion Township's Natural Resource Specialist.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Habitat Improvement Signs.pdf

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).

Two signs were made by Orion Township's Natural Resource Specialist with more being planned for next year. These signs were placed in parking lot islands that have been planted with native plants (including Milkweed) at Orion Township Recreation Center.

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.

3

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.

Orion Township's Phragmites program partnered with PLM Lake and Land Management Corp to treat and remove about 2 acres of park land this year. Also Orion Township Parks hosted an invasive species identification and removal workshop lead by Orion Township's Natural Resources Specialist.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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5

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Bee Balm, Wild Sunflower, Wild Bergamot, and Big Bluestem.

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

The Polly Ann Trail

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

Members of the Polly Ann trail, Orion Township's Natural Resources Specialist, and parks staff worked together to collect seed to be used in a prairie restoration project.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

1

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

Orion Township hosted an HOA event where a table was set up to promote the use of Milkweed and native plants in neighborhood landscaping. The primary focus of this was to recruit volunteers for a gardening group called "Orion in Bloom". This group will help establish and maintain pollinator gardens throughout the community and spread awareness about pollinator habitat in home landscapes.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

2024 Stantec Invoice (Seed).pdf

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

Native Prairie Habitat Restoration Manegement Plan.pdf

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

Township Hall Native Prairie Restoration.docx

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

In front of Orion Township Hall.

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

Environmental Resources Committee and the Orion Township Parks and Paths Committee.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

5

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

In Fall of 2024 this site was seeded with native plants that are indigenous to Oakland County. The seed Mix contained various Milkweed species. We plan to continue seeding this site in the coming years and apply controlled burns.

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