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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

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pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

## 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.).**

185

**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.)**

48

**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.**

Right-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, parks.

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

Orion Township Parks do not require an entrance fee, all are welcome. Orion Township offers free and low-cost programs.

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

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Our community's motivation for taking—and continuing to advance—the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is rooted in our commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity. Monarch butterflies are an iconic species whose decline reflects broader ecological challenges, and we view their conservation as both a responsibility and an opportunity.

**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?**

We've gotten the most value from solid guidance on pollinator work, access to native plants, and help from our local partners and volunteers. Going forward, more funding, better tools for tracking our progress, and clearer region-specific habitat tips would make things easier. To make our work more equitable, we'd benefit from resources that help us reach more people, make programs more accessible, and build stronger connections with groups that serve different parts of the community.

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

Over the past year, we've continued expanding habitat, improving maintenance of existing sites, and getting more residents involved in pollinator projects. We've also put more focus on invasive species removal, which has made a big difference in the quality of our natural areas. While we still have plenty of work ahead, we've seen steady progress, stronger community interest, and a growing commitment to supporting monarchs and other pollinators across the township.

## Selected Action Items

### 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)**

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

### 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)**

50 Milkweed seed packets of various species were given away

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

125

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

Orion Township Parks "Green Up"

## 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)**

**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)**

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

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

**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).**

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

**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.**

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

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

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

Pollinators Flyer.png

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

Converting Lawns Flyer.png

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

Orion Township Parks hosted pollinator garden workshops. Members of the community were invited to learn about the use of native plants in pollinator gardens with an emphasis on the relationship between Monarchs and Milkweeds.

## 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 25, 2025

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

02.25.25 Proclamation - Mayors Monacrch Pledge.pdf

## 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.**

Orion Township Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works have teamed up to identify mass planting replacements along Baldwin Road Corridor. These mass plantings are to be replaced with native trees, shrubs, and flowers.

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

Baldwin Road Corridor spans several miles and is heavily landscaped. As non-native species die, they will be replaced with a native alternative. This year several non-native tree species have been replaced with native varieties such as Allegheny Serviceberry. There will be hundreds of flowers and shrubs replaced with natives next year.

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

5

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Primarily Common Milkweed

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

Orion Township Parks and the Polly Ann Trail

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

Milkweed seed pods were collected and used to seed a native prairie restoration project.

## 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.**

FP 1 2025.jpeg

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

FP 2 2025.jpeg

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

FP 3 2025.jpeg

**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)**

3380 Clarkston Rd. Lake Orion, MI (Friendship Park Community Garden)

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

Orion Township Parks and Recreation and volunteers planted a 96 plant Monarch pollinator garden.

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**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.**

0.1

## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

A_CISMA_ProjectGuidance_2025-26.pdf

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

OaklandCoTurfConversionOrder.pdf

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

2323 Joslyn Rd.

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

Orion Township Parks and Recreation and Oakland County Parks

**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.**

Orion Township Hall Native Prairie Project. This project started in 2024 with the first round of seeding. In 2025 there was a second round of seeding. This seed was provided through a grant provided by Oakland County Parks (Community Habitat Improvement Projects Grant). The County provided $5,056.44 of dry/mesic prairie native seed mix. This seed was applied in September 2025.

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## 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)**

Park entrance ways along main roads. Friendship Park (3380 Clarkston Rd. Lake Orion, MI) and Camp Agawam (1301 Clarkston Rd. Lake Orion, MI) main entrance landscape beds were planted with Butterfly Weed and other native, nectar producing plants.

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

304

**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.**

First year regular watering, after first year, water as needed. There will be cut backs and garden bed maintenance every spring.

## 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.**

Heritage Park 2025.JPG

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

Orion Township Parks and Recreation

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

30

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

Completed planting at Orion Township's newest park, Heritage Park. This park contains many milkweeds and other native nectar-producing plants.

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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.

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

2025 Phragmites Application Packet.pdf

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

25

**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 Phragmites program. Orion Township contracts with a land management company to treat Phragmites within Orion Township, on public and private land.

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