

# Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Mississippi Mills, ON

Mayor Christa Lowry

## Pledge Summary

Mississippi Mills is ideally located in the middle of some of the most beautiful natural environments in all of Lanark County. Mississippi Mills is an outstanding urban and rural community that is recognized for its natural and architectural beauty, high quality of life and respect for its heritage and environment. Mississippi Mills is pleased to participate in the Mayors Monarch Pledge to support initiatives to promote beneficial pollinator habitats.

## 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.
- 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.)

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

### Systems Change

- 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 Christa Lowry	2024	4/29/2024	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 (e.g., 50).**

250

**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." (Only allow numerical values.)**

0

**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).**

0.25

**Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.**

Municipally maintained gardens

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

N/A

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

Create habitat for Monarchs and promote awareness of their benefits to our ecosystems.

**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?**

It would be helpful to have more public engagement materials available to use in promotions since some Municipalities have minimal communications staffing.

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

With the adoption of an integrated vegetation management plan, we are looking at alternate methods for control invasive species with a focus on rehabilitation to native.

## Selected Action Items

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

**How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?**

~150 seed packets

**How many people attended your event?**

200

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

Almonte Farmers Market

**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).**

Social media posts were made as well as in-person communications during a local farmers market to raise awareness of the importance of Monarchs and pollinator habitats.

**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)**

In right of ways throughout Mississippi Mills where Municipal gardens have been established.

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

50

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

.2

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

daily watering, weekly maintenance.

**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:**

Not completed

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

Not completed

**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?**

n/a

**How many plants were planted?**

0

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

Maintained milkweed in all municipal gardens

**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?**

not calculated

**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.**

Municipality developed and adopted an Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. This plan provides a formalized structure for managing invasive species across the Municipality. Currently only noxious weeds are removed alongside municipal right of ways and on municipal property.

**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?**

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.**

September 24, 2024 Council approved the adoption of a Municipal Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. This plan outlines methods for managing noxious weeds/invasive species with a focus on rehabilitation to native and zonal appropriate habitat. This plan provides steps for reducing herbicide use in the Municipality.