Hamilton Township

Hamilton Township, NJ

Mayor Jeffrey Martin

Pledge Summary

Hamilton Township's 100,000 residents span from the Delaware River's marshlands in the east to farmlands in Central New Jersey. The oldest parts of the township were settled during the colonial era, similar to neighboring Trenton, the state capital. Mayor Martin's commitment to supporting monarchs and other pollinators shows in his support of the newly planted Wing Haven Meadow, the five other gardens in the township planted with native flowers, his support for the volunteers on the Township's Green Team and efforts to plant other municipal spaces with milkweed and other native plants, including the new municipal building complex.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jeffrey Martin	2026	2/9/2026	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

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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.)

30

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.

0.03

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.

• Four small (approx. 80 sq ft), yet potent, monarch gardens have been added to existing township public gardens, one at an elementary school's rain garden, two in parks and one in a meadow. These "Monarch Domes" provide all the nectar and caterpillar food needed for monarchs throughout the year according to the book, Practical Ecology Gardening, A Simple Guide to Help You Make a Super Ecological Impact in a Super Small Space, James Bushong (2026 Kavanah Conservation). Plants in the Monarch Domes include Anise Hyssop "Blue Fortune" because it blooms all summer, Blazing Star (Liatris linguistylis and scariosa), butterfly and swamp milkweed (asclepias incarnata and tuberosa). • At least four residents created Monarch Domes at their Hamilton Township homes resulting from the education during the year as seen on the Monarch Dome Map found at https://www.monarchdome.com/ . Given the small size of the Monarch Domes, we estimate 10 square feet each for a total of 40 square feet for the residential gardens.

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

Not Addressed

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

• People can help Monarchs survive and thrive: Publicize that people need to help the monarchs by planting milkweed and nectar plants. Also, having the author of the book, Practical Ecology Gardening, A Simple Guide to Help You Make a Super Ecological Impact in a Super Small Space (2026 Kavanah Conservation), and originator of the term, Monarch Dome, James Bushong, speak in April (at the library) and consequently in May (at a garden club) stimulated interest and activity because of the easy, accessible ways that people can help in a small space with just several plants.

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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?

• The author of the book, Practical Ecology Gardening, A Simple Guide to Help You Make a Super Ecological Impact in a Super Small Space and originator of the term, Monarch Dome, James Bushong (2026 Kavanah Conservation), was the speaker at two evenrts in the spring. His book gave easy, specific instructions on how to plant successful Monarch Domes. His website shows the location of the Monarch Domes that have been planted.

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

N/A

Selected Action Items

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.)

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

HAMILTON CONVERSATIONS .pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

The EAC is providing a free conversation at our public library - while also doing a library display on monarch domes for the whole month of April.

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:

June 19, 2026

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

Observing National Pollinator Week June 22-28, 2026

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

pollinator week proclamation.pdf

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.

April 2026 htpl flyer.jpg

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

April 2026: presentation at the library cosponsored by the Hamilton Township Environmental Advisory Commission and the Bahá'ís of Hamilton Township by the author of the book, Practical Ecology Gardening, A Simple Guide to Help You Make a Super Ecological Impact in a Super Small Space (2026 Kavanah Conservation), and originator of the term, Monarch Dome, James Bushong was open to the public. See attached flyer publicizing the event. • April 2026: three-case display at the library showing life stages of monarchs, nectar and caterpillar food plants and seeds, and other relevant monarch education during the month of April. • May 2026 presentation by James Bushong (described above) at the Nottingham Garden Club meeting. As a result of the presentations by Mr. Bushong, several residents planted Monarch Dome gardens. • Tabling events at National Night Out (Aug) with a Trivia Game (Plink) and Oktoberfest with a corn hole game and informational handouts and seeds.

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)

1. Wing Haven Meadow approximately 0.25 acre total: 6 Justice Samuel A. Alito Way, Hamilton Township, 08619, across the street from the Township's Library and rain garden. 2. Alexander School rain garden approximately 0.03 acre total with a Monarch Dome approx. 0.0005 acre: 20 Robert Frost Dr, Hamilton, NJ 08690 3. Endicott Park Garden approximately 3.8 acre total with a Monarch Dome approx. 0.0005 acre : Endicott Road, between Kendall Road and Albemarle Road, Hamilton, NJ 4. George Dye Rd/Hamilton Square Park (approximately 4 acres total with a Monarch Dome approx. 0.0005 acre) between Carl Sandberg and Estates Blvd, Hamilton, NJ

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

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Hamilton Township’s Green Team and Environmental Advisory Commission, community volunteers and members of the Nottingham Garden Club.

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.

0.03

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