City of Woodstock

Woodstock, ON

Mayor Jerry Acchione

Pledge Summary

Woodstock, Ontario, Canada (population approx. 53 000) is actively advancing monarch and pollinator conservation through municipal plantings and community partnerships, including dedicated pollinator gardens at Burgess Park and Donald A. Thompson Park.

Action Items Committed for 2026

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.)
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- 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

- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jerry Acchione	2026	5/6/2026	

Action Items

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

Grass roots driven as well as Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee

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?

Get idea of what other communities are doing as we have only started this journey 5 months ago

Selected Action Items

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

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

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.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

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What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Complete

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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.

May 5, 2020, Ontario Canada pasted the Pesticides Act Ontario Regulation 63/09. This ban applies to residents and City.

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 29, 2026

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

Monarch Pledge to Support Pollinator 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.)

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

Helping Monarchs Thrive poster.pdf

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

From: Tatjana Milne Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 3:06 PM To: Jerry Acchione ; Kate Leatherbarrow ; Bernia Martin ; Deb Tait ; Mark Schadenberg ; Liz Wismer-Van Meer ; Connie Lauder Cc: Senior Management Team ; Reta Horan ; Communications Generic Subject: News release - City of Woodstock Takes the Mayors' Monarch Pledge for 2026 Good afternoon Mayor Acchione and Members of Council, Please see the below news release that will be sent to the media and posted to the web and socials shortly. Woodstock Takes the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to Support Pollinator Conservation Woodstock, ON - The City of Woodstock is proud to join the Mayors' Monarch Pledge with the National Wildlife Federation, committing the city to a series of actions in 2026 that support monarch butterflies, pollinators, and healthy ecosystems. Woodstock has already made strong progress in pollinator conservation through municipal plantings and dedicated pollinator gardens at Burgess Park and Donald A. Thompson Park. The Mayors' Monarch Pledge will build on this work and reflect our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity. Residents will have opportunities throughout the year to get involved - from

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planting native species to participating in community events and learning more about how to support pollinators at home. To learn more, visit the National Wildlife Federation's website at www.nwf.org - 30 -

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.

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

Parks Department currently seeks out area to naturalize. Part of the current practices is to leave milkweed in community garden. 2027 we will turn this practice into a formalized training for student staff

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

City of Woodstock Parks Department

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Butterflies 2026.jpg

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

2 Large flower butterflies were installed in the City of our main park. Southside Park. Butterflies were the chosen art to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Woodstock

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

City lead project, Collaboration with the 125 City anniversary committee

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

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