

# THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 18, 2024  
**TO:** Committee of the Whole  
**FROM:** Zack Moshonas,  
**SUBJECT:** **Mayors Monarch Pledge – 2024 Implementation Plan**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend Council to approve the Mayors' Monarch Pledge Implementation Plan and direct Staff to implement the action items as presented.**

**AND THAT Committee of the Whole direct Council to approve \$5,000 be funded through the Vegetation Management account to implement the action items.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The National Wildlife Federation developed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge which is an initiative where Municipal leaders commit to implementing action items with the goal of developing habitat for the Monarch butterfly and raising community awareness about the decline in the Monarch population. The Pledge provides a number of action items which Municipalities can select as being part of their annual pledge. The Municipality joined the Pledge in 2023 and completed the following action items:

1. Supported a native plant seed giveaway at the 2023 Come Home to Pakenham event
2. Maintained milkweed in municipal gardens (various locations)
3. Launched an invasive species removal program which involved re-establishment of native roadside vegetation along a section of Sugarbush Road.

### **DISCUSSION:**

For the 2024 Mayors Monarch Pledge Implementation Plan, staff recommend the following action items:

1. Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat;
2. Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods;

3. Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap;
4. Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way (completed with item #6);
5. Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community;
6. Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators; and
7. Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

#### **OPTIONS:**

1. Council approves this workplan and the reallocation of funds to undertake the actions described in this report to benefit monarch butterflies and pollinator habitats **(preferred)**
2. Council does not approve this workplan **(not preferred)**

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Staff recommend that Council approve the Monarch Pledge Workplan budget of \$5,000 which will be funded by the 2024 Roadside Mowing (Wild Parsnip) account. This account has sufficient funds for this reallocation.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Implementing the action items as part of the Monarch Pledge is part of the Safe and Sustainable principle of the Mississippi Mills Strategic Plan as it promotes environmentally sustainable principles and community education.

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Not applicable.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Monarch Pledge aims to unit municipalities to take action to benefit the monarch population as well as pollinator habitat. This implementation plan outlines steps that the Municipality will take to join the Pledge for 2024.

Respectfully submitted by,

Zack Moshonas,  
Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Reviewed by:

Ken Kelly,  
CAO