



# Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

## Proclamation

### Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

*By the Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion*

- Whereas,** The monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and
- Whereas,** both the western and eastern monarch populations have seen significant declines with less than one percent of the western monarch population remaining, while the eastern population has fallen by as much as ninety percent; and
- Whereas,** Orion Township recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife; and
- Whereas,** Cities, towns and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly, and Orion Township is striving to become a leader; and
- Whereas,** On April 1, I, Chris Barnett signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and have officially committed to taking meaningful action to protect the monarch butterfly; and
- Whereas,** Orion Township has committed to the following action items:
- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
  - Engage with the community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar producing plants.
  - Engage with Homeowners Associations, Community Associations, or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
  - Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway, or swap.
  - Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at Township Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
  - Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
  - Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar producing plants in community gardens.
  - Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
  - Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in township weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at township properties.

**Whereas,** Every resident of Orion Township can make a difference for the monarch by planting native milkweed and nectar plants to provide habitat for the monarch and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, play, and worship; and

**Whereas,** Orion Township, has committed to the action items listed; and

**Now, therefore,** I, Chris Barnett, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Supervisor of Orion Township, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2024, as:

### **Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day**

in Orion Township and encourage all residents to participate in community activities that support and celebrate monarch conservation.



Chris Barnett, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Orion

*Issued April 1, 2024*