

Dear Residents:

The monarch butterfly, is an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and whose western populations by 99% in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities and other communities are committing to create habitats for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. The Village is participating in this program.

The Village pledged to create two monarch roadside habitats and pass an ordinance supporting the philosophy of dark skies at night. The Trustees passed the ordinance in May.

Both roadside habitat projects made great progress this year. The first location on private property on Bull Valley Road by McAndrews Glen has been cleared of invasive brush and several invasive trees. At the second location, the entire tree line alongside Queen Ann Road by the Village Still Farm Park restoration area was cleared and has been herbicided to prevent regrowth of invasive species. The volunteers for both projects plan to seed in the spring with native wildflowers that are attractive to monarch butterflies. The Village will install signs identifying each sites as monarch habitats.

The Village wants to identify two more habitat projects for the upcoming year. Individuals, neighborhoods, clubs, school or church groups - all can create monarch habitats for our 2023 pledge. I will attach three publications from the National Wildlife Federation with more information.

If you are interested in creating a monarch habitat on your property this spring, email me or call Village Hall at 815-459-4833 and leave me a message.

Emily Berendt
Village President