

Action 12: Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

[March 16, 2024 OCA Clean-up Flier](#)

**Pic at the event:**



[May 4, 2024 I Love My Park OCA Clean-up Flier](#)

**Pic at the event:**



2. *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)*

The Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) is a 26.5-mile long beloved open space which provides the public with a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature. The scenic path over the underground aqueduct winds through urban centers and small communities. It passes near numerous historic sites, preserves, a museum highlighting the construction of the OCA, and many homes. The OCA is open to everyone including local commuters and tourists who use it for walking, running, biking, and bird-watching.

Our demonstration garden is along the OCA south of Main Street in Irvington. The coordinates are 41°02'16.2"N 73°52'00.6"W, south of the ventilation tower along the wall with the Irvington Estates cooperative.

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

The effort involved first clearing non-native invasives (NNI's) and then restoring the area with pollinator-friendly species.

The Village received permission for the NNI removal from the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The clearing of NNI's was done in coordination with the Irvington Green Policy Task Force (GPTF) under the supervision of Peter Strom, Native Plant Gardener and Horticulturist, on March 16, 2024.

The GPTF leaders further coordinated with:

- Irvington's O'Hara Nature Center (ONC),
- The Greater Irvington Land Trust (GILT)
- Pollinator Pathway,
- Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (FOCA),
- the New York State Flora Atlas,
- Lower Hudson PRISM,
- Healthy Yards, and
- Bedford2030

to carefully select local ecotypes (Ecoregion-59) to follow the NYS Parks guidelines and provide a variety of plants for pollinators that bloom at different times throughout the year to ensure an abundance of nutrition. We also considered soil, sun, and shade conditions. The projected benefits will help put back habitat and food for native pollinators.

With tools on loan from the Village's ONC, the GPTF and a group of 35 active volunteers cleared an open space along the OCA south of Main Street in Irvington on March 16, 2024. The specific location was southwest of the ventilation tower along the privately owned fences. The hands-on engagement with the community helped educate and create awareness of the need and benefits of NNI removal and planting of natives to regenerate biodiversity.

The Village of Irvington, Department of Public Works provided hauling services for the many bags of NNI's collected.

Under the direction of the GPTF, the Village provides the public with educational materials (electronic and printed versions) prior to, during, and after the event. Specifically, from the Green Policy Task Force, O'Hara Nature Center, Pollinator Pathway, Friends of OCA, the [NY State Flora Atlas](#), Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030.

4. *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.*

**0.010 acres**