Village of Winnetka

Winnetka, IL

Village Manager Robert Bahan

Pledge Summary

Winnetka, the Native American term for “beautiful land”, is a 12,000 person Village known for its mature tree canopy, sandy beaches, outstanding parks, and renowned schools nestled along Lake Michigan’s north shore of Chicago. By signing the Mayors Monarch Pledge, President Rintz and the Village Council demonstrate their commitment to preserve and enhance the health and biodiversity of this “beautiful land” by increasing habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators through example and education.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President Robert Dearborn	2026	3/10/2026	
President Robert Dearborn	2025	1/10/2025	Signatories
Village President Chris Rintz	2024	4/28/2024	Signatories
Village President Chris Rintz	2023	4/25/2023	Signatories
Village Manager Robert Bahan	2021	3/24/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

50

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

20 youth and 30 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

yards, containers, balconies, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, common areas, parks

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

We delicately use the MMP as an education tool to show literally and figuratively how our human, animal, and plant communities have been artificially and negatively fragmented by our society's (Suburban Chicago, etc.) obsession with the "perfect" lawn and what is exotic and ornamental rather than what occurs naturally in our region.

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

We recognize there is strength in numbers and are numerous benefits to planting pollinator-friendly plants and educating about those plants and we appreciate the MMP's tools to do so.

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?

The resources that have been most helpful are the people in your organization who have been so prompt and informative when we have questions. I don't have any thoughts or

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suggestions on other suggestions, but will let you know if that changes.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We are planning to build on these efforts at the Village, school, and individual level through all sorts of messaging and channels. Thank you for the opportunity!

Selected Action Items

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:

April 19, 2022

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

Monarch Remembrance Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Unknown.pdf

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

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

IMG_3924.jpeg

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 demonstration garden is located at 1390 Willow Road, Winnetka, IL 60093. It is part of a culture of conservation in Illinois that ensures future biodiversity and flourishing pollinator habitat across diverse urban and rural landscapes in our state. Our plan is for it to become part of a network of pollinator-friendly spaces in our Village, which we will track using resources provided by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and/or Homegrown National Park, a movement co-founded by Doug Tallamy.

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

This is a true community effort. The garden was planted by an Eagle Scout candidate and is maintained by various Village staff and volunteer groups throughout the year, including the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission, local non-profits, schools, faith houses, and more.

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.

0.1

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

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

Image 4-11-23 at 2.21 PM.jpg

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

Image 4-11-23 at 2.21 PM.jpg

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

Image 4-11-23 at 2.28 PM.jpg

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

Image 4-11-23 at 2.28 PM.jpg

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

Image 4-11-23 at 2.29 PM.jpg

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

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The Village Council engaged a consultant to lead the Comprehensive Planning process, which began pre-pandemic and continued very intentionally post-pandemic. Numerous individual, organizational, and institutional stakeholders provided input. Sustainability was a high priority across the board. The Consultant helped integrate sustainability throughout the Comprehensive Plan, as well as include a standalone chapter on Sustainability. Our Environmental and Forestry Commission and local environmental, non-profit, worked with the other commissions, consultant, and village staff to provide input regarding pollinator-friendly habitat and natives where appropriate.

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

Complete

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.

Comprehensive Plan adopted by Village Council April 3, 2023; relevant excerpts included as attachments

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

The management of this garden is being transitioned from the Eagle Scout and volunteers who designed it to the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission and local environmental non-profit, Go Green Winnetka. The garden is still being maintained but we expect a new schedule and plan for education and maintenance moving forward, to emphasize the "community" part of the demonstration garden. We expect this shift to be completed within the next several months.

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