Village of Winnetka

Winnetka, IL

Village President Chris Rintz

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 2023

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.).

60

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.)

30 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.

2

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.

All of the above - residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas, and parks

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

We connect with neighboring and Chicago area communities through shared pollinator habitat, creating a Monarch Highway, community gardens, and more.

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

To protect and rewild our native habitat while educating friends and neighbors about how and why it's so important. Leave the leaves for pollinator habitat and more!

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?

I don't have specific suggestions here. Your people are great, I love your hard copy resources, and I always look forward to receiving updates.

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

We wish it could have been more! We are a small village with staff and volunteers pulled in many different directions.

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 18, 2023

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

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation 2023.pdf

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

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.

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.

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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.

.1

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

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

Local community members, representatives from environmental groups like Go Green Winnetka and Friends of the Green Bay Trial, provided input to the Environmental and Plan Commissions that drafted the Village 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

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

In progress

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

Not sure this will ever be complete. ;) Sustainability and protecting pollinator habitat have been incorporated into our 2040 Comprehensive Plan. I would like to see that and more incorporated into a Sustainability Plan we are working on, as well as similar plans for other taxing bodies like our Library, Park, and School districts, and will keep working on those.

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