Village of Winnetka

Winnetka, IL

President Robert Dearborn

Pledge Summary

Nestled along Lake Michigan's North Shore, Winnetka is a community of tree-lined streets, sandy beaches, renowned schools, outstanding parks, quality recreation facilities, and plentiful non-profit and religious organizations. Natural beauty brought early settlers, but through careful planning, Winnetka has maintained a historic, small town charm, as well as family-oriented neighborhoods, while developing into a thriving village for people to live, work, and visit. The village commits to creating habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educating residents about how they can make a difference at home and in our community.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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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

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.).

200

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.)

40

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.

.25

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 , schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, 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 do not have marginalized communities.

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

Residents want a sustainable, resilient, and attractive community for their families.

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?

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I don't have specific suggestions here. Your people are great, hard copy resources are useful, and updates help keep us informed.

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

The all-volunteer "chainsaw gang" eradicated invasive Buckthorn and planted native species along the bike/ walking trail.

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 15, 2025

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

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

The local Garden Guild of Winnetka maintains a native butterfly garden at the main downtown public park.

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 the Public Works campus at 1390 Willow Road.

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

Eagle Scout project

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

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.25

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

The all-volunteer "Chainsaw Gang" cleared invasive Buckthorn from a section of the Green Bay Trail and planted the area with native species.

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?

We have engaged with Go Green Winnetka, Friends of the Green Bay Trail, the Park District, School District to gather input for our Climate Action 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.

We expect to complete the Climate Action Plan in March 2026.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Hundreds

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Go Green Winnetka

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Located at Dwyer Park and a new sign added on the Green bay Trail. signs describe the life-cycle of Monarch butterflies and the importance of healthy native habitats/ ecosystems.

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