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. Founded in 1869, the name given to the community was a Native American word meaning "beautiful land." 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. Winnetka was named "one of the best places to live" by 24/7 Wall Street in 2020. It is located in Cook County, less than 20 miles north of the City of Chicago.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly 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.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]

- 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

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.).

500

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.)

200

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.

0.5

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.

residences, public trails, shared public spaces

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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]

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?

I don't have specific suggestions here.

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

A new mural featuring monarchs and native plants was commissioned this year.

Selected Action Items

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Public works, sustainability, park district staff

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

Landscapers instructed to plant natives when possible/ practical.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Winnetka Garden Club and Winnetka Garden Guild. Master gardener joined the Environmental Commission.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Guild maintains native butterfly garden in center of town. Recognized resident with a Green Award for her butterfly conservation efforts in her garden.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]

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)

Native garden located at Public Works campus at 1390 Willow Rd. Winnetka.

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.

.1

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Friends of the Green Bay Trail, Go Green Winnetka

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Monarchwatch Monarch Waystations- https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/

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).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]

Signs explain what ecosystems are, the services provided, threats to native ecosystems, and what actions people can take to protect them.

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?

The Environmental, Forestry, and Sustainability commission; Friends of the Green Bay Trail; Go Green Winnetka

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

Village Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan are 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.

The Climate Action Plan was adopted in July 2026. It identifies emission reduction actions including protecting more open spaces, green spaces for carbon removal

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

Private residents, Go Green Winnetka

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Native plant sale in the fall

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:

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]

April 2026

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

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch_pledge_2026.docx

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.

.1

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 Village started offering free pickup of buckthorn removed from private property by residents. If a resident clears invasive buckthorn from their yard, they can place it at their curb, notify the Village, and have it taken away at no charge to encourage eradication.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u262:v1.14.0.49966]