Town of Ossining

Ossining, NY

Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg

Pledge Summary

Town of Ossining is a predominantly residential community in Westchester County, New York. With six large parks, including one on the banks of the beautiful Hudson river, an organic community garden, passive trails and other natural assets, the Town is committed to protecting natural habitats, planting native species, reducing invasive plants and trees, and enhancing our natural resources. By taking the Mayor's Monarch Pledge we have committed to actively planting species that attract monarchs as well as other pollinators and support other policies and programs to educate and encourage these plantings throughout the Town.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg	2022	4/21/2022	
Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg	2021	3/25/2021	

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.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

Selected Action Items

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 Town of Ossining has planted multiple pollinator-friendly gardens, the most prominent being the plantings at Louis Engel Waterfront Park, Ryder Park and Sally Swope Sitting Park.

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

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Members of a local Girl Scout Troop assisted with one of the plantings, along with a community member who leads our local Pollinator Pathway project.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Ossining Parks and Recreation (staff); Ossining Habitat Stewards (volunteers)

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.

After passing our monarch resolution (see uploads), we began systematically planting native species in all of our public spaces. The Town of Ossining also has a habitat stewards program in which invasive plants are removed from public areas and replaced with native, pollinator-friendly plant species. .

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

The battle against invasive species is always ongoing, but the directive is in place and being followed diligently.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

butterfly.jpg

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

girl scouts.jpg

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

one month later ryder.jpg

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

ryder.jpg

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

The Town of Ossining began a public communication effort to encourage the planting of monarch gardens in 2021 (see file uploads for sample communications). We continue to periodically share information about planting native gardens and amplify community members' efforts at same in the weekly Supervisor's Update and on our social media. We also maintain a list of native trees and plants for homeowners and developers to consult on our website. We have a tab on the website that allows for translation.

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