Village of Northbrook

Northbrook, IL

Village President Kathryn Ciesla

Pledge Summary

The Village of Northbrook is north of Chicago and a few miles west of Lake Michigan. Northbrook's Village government and residents are firmly committed to conservation efforts to improve the health of our entire community through native ecosystem revitalization projects. Village President Sandy Frum first took the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in 2017 and has expanded programming for pollinator conservation since then, through programs such as Village reimbursements for native garden expenses. We look forward to further demonstrating Northbrook's dedication to this issue in 2021 and for years to come.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Kathryn Ciesla	2026	4/6/2026	Leadership Circle
Mayor Kathryn Ciesla	2025	1/13/2025	Leadership Circle
Village President Kathryn Ciesla	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle
Village President Kathryn Ciesla	2023	2/1/2023	Monarch Champions
Village President Kathryn Ciesla	2022	1/19/2022	Leadership Circle
Village President Kathryn Ciesla	2021	12/4/2020	Leadership Circle

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.)

55

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.

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.

A combination of new residential plantings, a restored prairie in the industrial corridor, added landscaping in Village Hall, and other publicly owned land.

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

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Northbrook is aware of census tracts where socioeconomic indicators of marginalized communities are found and targets promotional materials for all services such as giveaways in these areas.

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

Northbrook is deeply concerned about the climate crisis and understands that bolstering the health of our ecosystem will in turn foster a resilient, educational, and vibrant community.

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 Field Museum was a great resource for us. Toolkits that help create culturally and linguistically relevant materials to promote pollinator education would be beneficial.

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

This year was full of uncertainties for everyone, but committing to the Mayors Monarch Pledge was a guiding light to encourage Village staff to keep up community outreach efforts on this topic. We are grateful to have your support and excited for next year.

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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.

mmp_action2.docx

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

This communications effort largely entails online posts that combine programming that falls under other actions (free yard sign, seed packet giveaways, library displays) with promotional and educational materials informing residents the social, economic, and environmental benefits of planting native pollinator gardens. This includes posts to Facebook and our Village e-newsletter as well as posts in the print newsletter.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

NativePlantingsLocationMap_20210813.pdf

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Northbrook Planning Department GIS staff maintain a database of acreage and location of native pollinator habitat in the Village that encompasses Village-owned, Park District, Forest Preserve, and registered Northbrook pollinator habitat gardens. As detailed in Northbrook's Climate Action Plan, this map's purpose is to identify priority locations for new plantings to enhance connectivity through a wildlife corridor. Northbrook's Departments of Planning and Public Works are collaborating for this project.

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

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location.

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

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

Planting in May.JPG

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

rain garden.jpg

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

Trustee Israel.JPG

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

VH Rain Garden in August.jpg

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)

Northbrook Village Hall, 1225 Cedar Ln Northbrook IL 60062

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

In early spring, Village trustees (elected officials) helped weed and add native plants to the demonstration garden. As well, To encourage participation in local conservation studies, the Village monitors a survey patch of milkweed for the Field Museum's Community Science program. This effort contributes data to help answer fundamental urban ecology questions like, “what are the characteristics of a successful urban monarch garden?” See 2021 updates on the Field Museum's Community Science program here.

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.

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0.01

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

pollinator_sign.png

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

NativePlantingsLocationMap_20210813.pdf

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

30

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

Residents who demonstrate their commitment to pollinator conservation in their outdoor spaces may receive a free yard sign, either for a Monarch Way Station or Bumblebee Habitat. Monarch sign: Monarch butterfly numbers are declining due to human practices, and they need our help to survive! Milkweed—which is NOT a weed—is planted here because it is the only food that sustains monarch caterpillars. You can help save the monarch by planting milkweed in your garden and by learning more about why monarchs are in peril. Will you join us in making Northbrook a Monarch Way Station? Bee sign: Northbrook has one of the last remaining populations of this endangered species of bumblebee. Their numbers are declining due to human practices, and they need our help to survive! Native wildflowers are planted here as food that sustains these bees. You can help save the rusty patched bumble bee with natural landscaping practices and learning more about why these bees are in peril. Will you join us in making Northbrook a safe home for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee?

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

mmp17.PNG

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

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Outreach to the community occurred to make residents aware of the landscaping code changes in a webinar in collaboration with our local GoGreen chapter, Garden Club, and Library.

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.

4/27/2021

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

https://library.municode.com/il/northbrook/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=Chapter%2025%20-%20TREE%20PROTECTION%20AND%20PRESERVATION,%20VEGETATION

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

5

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

the Field Museum, GoGreen Northbrook

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Northbrook's Village Hall rain garden participated in the Field Museum's monarch monitoring program weekly all summer long and promoted this initative via signage and on our webpage at https://www.northbrook.il.us/1017/Endangered-Species To encourage participation in local conservation studies, the Village monitors a survey patch of milkweed for the Field Museum's Community Science program. This effort contributes data to help answer fundamental urban ecology questions like, “what are the characteristics of a successful urban monarch garden?” See 2021 updates on the Field Museum's Community Science program here. In this program you observe how many eggs, caterpillars, or adults

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are on your milkweed each week and also take note of what is in bloom at the time. https://monarch-community-science-fieldmuseum.hub.arcgis.com/pages/results

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

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

giveaway.jpg

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

54 milkweed plants, 200 native wildflower mix, 200 milkweed seed packets

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

400

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

For the milkweed plug giveaway, the Village partnered with the Northbrook Farmers Market for the ability to set up a tent for the giveaway. The seed packets giveaway first was available only to residents who completed the Earth Month scavenger hunt (around 10) but then opened to anyone interested via an e-newsletter blast and over 200 were distributed as a result. Then a final round of milkweed seeds were distributed at the public library in fall.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

1.png

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

2.png

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

3.png

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Maple Summer School Science Program 2021

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Maple School - IL School District 30

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

milkweed seed, soil, educational materials on propagation and growth methods

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

1 educator, 55 studemts

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

The library

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

.25

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

This educational program was provided to students to learn about fractions through seeds and propagation. The seedlings that germinated were taken home by students along with care cards on how to grow milkweed from seedling.

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

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

mmp10.PNG

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

mmp18.PNG

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

mmp9.PNG

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

mmp11.PNG

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

buckthorn.jpg

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

10

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 supports Integrated Pest Management approaches through promoting organic methods of weed control in social media campaigns and utilizing grant funding from Openlands to perform prescribed burns on Village-owned natural areas (10 acres). We also made a post for invasive species awareness month making residents aware of the common garden ornamentals that are actually invasive. As well, partnership with the Somme Woods Community restoration group that volunteers year round every weekend to perform mechanical invasive plant species removal in our precious forest preserves and remnant prairie habitat. Finally, the Village Sustainability Coordinator is the steward of a restored prairie habitat in Northbrook and overseeing volunteers to prune invasive

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buckthorn through collaboration with the Northbrook Garden Club and Openlands Treekeepers.

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?

This Climate Action Planning team is made up of Village staff, elected officials, School and Park District, the Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, and community representatives to decide upon actions going into the plan. The public input period received over 700 respondants.

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.

https://www.northbrook.il.us/993/Climate-Action-Plan

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

Northbrook started a robust process creating its Climate Action Plan in 2020. The Plan team met for monthly meetings to decide on actions with an environmental consultant. This plan includes a Greenspace category with goals of increasing 1.5% of community wide land pollinator restoration coverage and reducing lawn space, and the Mayors Monarch Pledge is explicitly mentioned as a commitment to guide municipal leadership. The Village Board adopted the plan in August 2021. Northbrook's Library Board also adopted the Plan, along with two school districts. Many interdepartmental and external collaborations are in progress to achieve each goal.

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