

City of Crystal Lake

Crystal Lake, IL

Mayor Haig Haleblian

Pledge Summary

The City of Crystal Lake is located in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, IL with a population of roughly 40,000 residents. Crystal Lake is home to two public lakes, multiple public parks, and community gardens. Mayor Haleblian has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The City of Crystal Lake looks forward to engaging with residents in building more pollinator habitats in the City.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2026	1/22/2026	
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2025	3/6/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2024	3/13/2024	Signatories
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2023	2/17/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2022	12/22/2021	Signatories
Mayor Haig Haleblian	2021	3/31/2021	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 (e.g., 50).

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

100 youth and 200 adults so far.

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).

2

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

Rights-of-way, residences, City owned properties, and community gardens.

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

By providing seed packets to all guests at events, the City is promoting a low-cost option for everyone to engage in Monarch habitat preservation.

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

Preserving the Monarch Butterfly habitat, promoting and preserving pollinator habitat, and utilizing rain gardens for water retention and flood mitigation.

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 City will continue to leverage modes of communication to engage the community, including the City website, social media, and newsletter.

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

The City of Crystal Lake values pollinators and preserving pollinator habitat, including the Monarch Butterfly. Preserving pollinator habitat benefits the community and encourages long term sustainability efforts.

Selected Action Items

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.)

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

The City has created a web page on the City's website specifically for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The web page is designed to provide information for the public regarding the status of the pledge and how the community can help the Monarch Butterfly habitat.

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

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?

Over 150 pollinator plant seed packets have been given away.

How many people attended your event?

300

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

The City's Sustainability Committee attended a Downtown Crystal Lake Garden Party, which featured butterflies as a special portion of the event. The Sustainability Committee provided printed materials and pollinator seed packets to event attendees to help promote the preservation of monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat in the City. In addition, the City's Sustainability Committee has hosted a bike riding event where seed packets were provided to guests.

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?

Over 10 acres.

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 City continues to expand its invasive species removal program, which coincides with the City's natural areas maintenance program. Crystal Lake contracts with a professional firm to manage natural areas and remove invasive species. The City will be installing additional rain gardens with pollinator friendly plants and an ecological firm will provide maintenance and invasive species removal at the rain gardens.