

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

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.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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 |

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).

400

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 400 adults

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).

5

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. In addition, the City has conducted outreach at community events in partnership with the City's Sustainability Committee and local organizations.

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 created a web page on the City's website specifically for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge in 2021, and the City continued to update and promote the page to the community. 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.

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 City of Crystal Lake and the City's Sustainability Committee have partnered with local organizations at community events to promote native plantings. Outreach was conducted at the spring butterfly garden event in Downtown Crystal Lake. In addition, the City's Sustainability Community has conducted outreach engage local plant shops to participate in the Green Business Designation program and highlight the efforts taken by local nurseries to promote native seeds and plants.

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

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

300

How many people attended your event?

1000

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. The City's Sustainability Committee also participated in the Johnny Appleseed Festival in September 2022 and provided seeds to event attendees.

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 12 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.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

[09.06.2022 Ordinance - City Code Text Amendments.pdf](#)

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

The Sustainability Committee and the City's Engineering staff.

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.

September 6, 2022