

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 over 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 2025

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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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).

40000

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.)

500

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).

3

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.

City owned properties, community gardens, right-of-ways, and other public spaces.

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

The City of Crystal Lake has worked to engage all community members through various accessible and free resources. Some examples include involvement at free public events, giving away native seeds for free, posting information on social media, and translating City newsletter articles in other languages such as Spanish. These free resources help individuals learn about the importance of preserving native wildlife, and open Sustainability Committee meetings are held to promote open dialogue regarding Mayor's Monarch Pledge initiatives.

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

Crystal Lake aims to preserve its beautiful environment. The City understands that preserving native pollinators and wildlife is an ongoing process that takes community dedication.

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 of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee attended the reception for the Environmental Defenders 2025 Mayors Monarch Pledge participants in June and found that hearing the accomplishments of the other involved municipalities and organizations were inspirational. Creating an online portal or a mid-year shareable check-in amongst regional participating municipalities would be helpful to give ideas and potentially allow for collaboration. This can also increase engagement across multiple communities if shared efforts are advertised.

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

Through the many recent developments in Crystal Lake, the City has been collaborating with developers to plant native areas, such as Depot Park, Water's Edge Redevelopment, or Three Oaks Recreational Area.

Selected Action Items

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

No actions have been done at this time.

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.

[Seed Packet 1.jpg](#)

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

[Seed Packet 2.jpg](#)

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

[Johnny Appleseed Booth 1.jpg](#)

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

125

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 of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee worked with the Downtown Crystal Lake Association to have a booth at the Johnny Appleseed Event. During this event, the Committee members for Crystal Lake handed out seed packets and provided attendees with information on how to plant milkweed and the benefits of having milkweed plants.

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?

No action done at this time.

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

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

No action done at this time.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

[Strategic Plan 2025.pdf](#)

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

The City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee

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.

The City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee's Strategic Plan was complete in January of 2025. This describes the mission statement, vision statement, history, and goals of the Committee.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

[Three Oaks Bioswale Sign.jpg](#)

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

[City Triangle Garden.jpg](#)

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

[City Hall Rain Garden.jpg](#)

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

[Downtown City Prairie Planting 2.jpg](#)

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

[Pollinator Gardens \(QR Code\).pdf](#)

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located?

4

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

Bioswale sign - Located outside of the Three Oaks Beach Marina, 5517 Northwest Highway in Crystal Lake. This describes how the bioswale works and the benefits of using native plants. The bioswale is located in the parking lot stormwater basin. The Three Oaks Recreation Area is owned and maintained by the City of Crystal Lake. City Triangle Garden sign - City owned garden located at the corner of Minnie Street, Brink Street, and Walkup Avenue. This sign explains how the plants such as milkweed and nectar producing plants give monarch butterflies food and shelter. City Hall Rain garden - Located at 100 W Woodstock Street. This qr code scans to an informational document explaining pollinator gardens and their use. (see Pollinator Gardens (QR code) attachment) Downtown City Prairie Planting - Located in the City-owned right-of-way at the Brink Street parking lot. This signage indicates that a pollinator garden is present.

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

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

[City Garden Litter Clean Up 2.jpg](#)

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

[Downtown City Prairie Planting.jpg](#)

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

[City Hall Rain Garden 3.jpg](#)

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

City Garden Litter Cleanup photo - The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee has continually partnered with Countryside Flower Shop in Crystal Lake to plant and maintain the City-owned triangle garden at the corner of Minnie Street, Grant Street, and Walkup Avenue. Downtown City Prairie Planting - The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee has also partnered with the Wildflower Preservation and Protection Committee to plant and maintain pollinator gardens throughout Downtown Crystal Lake. City Hall Rain Garden - The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee partnered with the Wildflower Preservation and Protection Committee to maintain the native rain garden outside of City Hall at 100 W Woodstock Street.

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.

[Three Oaks Trail Planting 1.jpg](#)

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

[Three Oaks Trail Planting 2.jpg](#)

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

[Three Oaks Trail Planting 3.jpg](#)

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

[Three Oaks Trail Planting 4.jpg](#)

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

The Three Oaks Recreation Area owned by the City of Crystal Lake is adding a 3 mile lake loop trail around the main lake. Native seeds have been planted and have started to grow along the trail. The trail is planned to open by the end of 2025.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

[Johnny Appleseed AM 1.jpg](#)

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

[Art Project in Lobby.jpg](#)

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

The City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee and the Downtown Crystal Lake Association worked together to plan the event.

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (e.g., 50).

100

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee hosted a community-open art project aimed towards promoting monarch awareness to children. This was held at the Johnny Appleseed Festival, which is an annual family-friendly event each fall. Participants were able to draw a butterfly using either a stencil or freehand on a 4 ft by 4 ft canvas. At the same booth, participants were able to gather information and resources about pollinators and native planting, including coloring sheets with pollinator information on the back of each sheet. The butterfly canvas had the hashtag #CLMONARCHS, which promoted photo opportunities of participating in this community event.

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

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

[City Hall Rain Garden 2.jpg](#)

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

[City Hall Rain Garden 3.jpg](#)

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

[City Hall Rain Garden.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)

The City's pollinator garden is located in front of the Crystal Lake City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL.

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

We have partnered with the Wildlife Preservation & Propagation Committee for the maintenance of the space.

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.

0.25

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?

100

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 contracts with an environmental consultant and vegetation management service organization, Davey Resources Group. Davey resources performs maintenance at 10 locations throughout the City to remove invasive species while planting native seeds after the invasive species are removed, including the City-owned Three Oaks Recreation Area.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

[IMG_9044.png](#)

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

The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee partnered with the City of Crystal Lake to post about pesticide alternatives on their Facebook page.

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.

This post was made on July 8. It explained the importance of conserving monarch habitat and useful alternatives to pesticides. The post was shared multiple times and recieved interaction from the Crystal Lake community.

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.

[IMG_9043.png](#)

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

[IMG_9045.png](#)

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

[Johnny Appleseed Booth 1.jpg](#)

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

[Native Planting Pamphlet.pdf](#)

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

[Pollinator Gardens \(QR Code\).pdf](#)

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

[Monarch Butterfly Sheet.pdf](#)

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

Public communication efforts have primarily been from social media posts, signage, and printed handouts at local events. The social media posts have promoted native planting to protect pollinators during Pollinator week and instructions on how to water plants efficiently. Signage and printed handouts were provided at the Crystal Lake Johnny Appleseed Festival, which explained pollinator gardens, promoted native planting species, and even gave monarch information to children on the back of coloring sheets. A children's book presented at the Sustainability Committee booth at the Johnny Appleseed Festival was called Butterflies on Carmen Street, which explained butterfly migration in both English and Spanish.

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

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

[City Garden Litter Clean Up 1.jpg](#)

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

[City Garden Litter Clean Up 2.jpg](#)

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

The City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee and Countryside Garden Club

How many plants were planted?

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee helped maintain the City-owned triangle garden at the corner of Brink Street, Minnie Street, and Walkup Avenue in Crystal Lake. This garden is home to many kinds of native pollinating plants. The Sustainability

Committee kept the garden free of debris and ensured the growth of existing healthy plants.