# Village of Riverwoods

Riverwoods, IL

Mayor Kristine Ford

## Pledge Summary

Riverwoods is a Village in the north suburbs of Chicago with a population of roughly 3,700 people. The Village is a unique community located primarily along the east side of the Des Plaines River with homes built in and among various remnant woodlands, savanna marsh and prairie ecosystems. Mayor Ford has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging the community in establishing more pollinator habitat throughout the Village.

## Action Items Committed for 2025

### Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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.

### Systems Change

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

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Kristine Ford | 2026 | 4/24/2026 | |
| Mayor Kristine Ford | 2025 | 2/15/2025 | Signatories |
| Mayor John Norris | 2021 | 4/2/2021 | |

## 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.).**

100

**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.)**

20

**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.**

.2

**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.**

Police Department

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

This is an area that we need to improve on.

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

The Village of Riverwoods is committed to environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation. By taking the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, we are joining a national movement to protect the declining monarch butterfly population and restore vital pollinator habitats. Our Community is uniquely positioned-with its rich natural landscapes and engaged residents to make a meaningful impace through native plantings, public education, and sustainable land management practices.

**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 newsletter are very helpful in providing us material to put in our newsletters. Also, the information on potential grants is very useful.

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

Riverwoods has a Ecological Cost Share Program. One of the eligible projects related to the cost share program is a native seeding program. After meeting with the Village Ecologists Residents can potentially be reimbursed for some of the costs related to planting native plants.

## Selected Action Items

### Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

**Date of Proclamation:**

March 4, 2025

**Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):**

Recognizing Mayors' Monarch Pledge DAy

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

2025-03-04_proclamation_MayorsMonarchPledge_kFord.pdf

### 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.**

International Monarch Monitoring Blitz _ July 25 - August 3, 2025 _ Riverwoods IL.pdf

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

The Village has posted newsletter articles about monarchs and planting gardens. Village representatives have also attended local events, given out free milkweed seeds, and provided information on the monarch lifecycle.

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

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

RPC Native Plant Sale _ Online Now Until 12_31_2025 _ Riverwoods IL.pdf

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

Unsure at this time. Plant sale is still ongoing. Over a 100 milkweed seeds were passed out at Earth Day event.

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

100

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

Riverwoods Preservation Council

## 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?**

Riverwoods Preservation Council

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

In progress

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

A Riverwoods Sustainability Plan has been drafted. The Village Board has not yet formally adopted it, and the draft is currently under technical review. It is hoped the sustainability plan will be approved by the end of this year.

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