

# Village of Waunakee

Waunakee, WI

Village President Chris Zellner

## Pledge Summary

The Village of Waunakee, located only a few miles north of Wisconsin's capital city, is home to a population of just over 14,000. Village President Chris Zellner and the Village Board renew their pledge to monarch conservation through the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Waunakee maintains several restored prairies sites within the Village and neighbors several county and state parks, including a 550-acre prairie, each containing abundant milkweed and other nectar sources that support monarch populations. By signing the pledge, Waunakee aims to educate, engage and inspire its residents and visitors to take action to enhance monarch populations.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.)
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Kristin Runge	2026	12/14/2025	
Village President Kristin Runge	2025	3/7/2025	Signatories
Village President Kristin Runge	2024	2/6/2024	Signatories
Village President Kristin Runge	2023	3/1/2023	Signatories
Village President Chris Zellner	2022	2/1/2022	Signatories
Village President Chris Zellner	2021	4/30/2021	Signatories

## Action Items

**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).**

0

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

To enhance monarch populations and to engage, learn from one another.

**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 Mayors Monarch Pledge zoom meetings have been helpful. I would like to see those continue and to increase our groups involvement. Use the new Waunakee Monarch facebook page to engage more with the community..

**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).**

10

**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.**

Public spaces/parks. Roadways

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

Facebook can involve many communities.

**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.)**

0

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

We have talked about ways to decrease our mowing of right a ways, to keep the milkweed sustained. Made a new facebook page to increase community involvement. Got rid of invasive plants and maintained the plants at Bolz Conservancy and Ripp Park Prairie.

## **Selected Action Items**

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

**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).**

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

**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).**

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

**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)**

**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.**

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

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

**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).**

**How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"?**

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

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

**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)**

Bolz Conservancy Park, Schumacher Farm Park

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

Dane County, Village of Waunakee

**Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.**

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

40

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

There are educational signs displayed at Bolz Conservancy and Schumacher Farm Park.

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

**How many plants were planted?**

0

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

We maintained native milkweed and nectar-producing plants at Bolz Conservancy and Ripp Park prairie, by removing invasive plants nearby.

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

Village of Waunakee, Schumacher Farm

**Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.**

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.**

Engaged with public works/parks to revise mowing programs to help with sustaining milkweed and other pollinator plants.

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

2

**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:**

12-3-2018

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

MONARCH PLEDGE RESOLUTION

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

[MonarchPledgeResolutionWaunakee..docx](#)

**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).**

Launched a Waunakee Monarchs Facebook page this year.  
<https://www.facebook.com/mayors.monarch.pledge>