

# 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 2022

### 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.
- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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 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).**

40

**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.)**

35 adult 5 youth

**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).**

0.2

**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.**

Ripp Park Prairie

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

Making our efforts seen through social media/Facebook group

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

We enjoy having goals for the year to continue in our monarch conservation efforts

**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?**

I have received great resources through the network wide meetings. Monarch joint venture, Journey north, Xerces Society have been great resources as well. It is very nice to be informed about opportunities to receive free milkweed, plants for conservation efforts.

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

I applied for and received 164 free milkweed plants from Monarch Watch this spring. I planted them in 3 of our prairie sites to restore some areas. I was thrilled to receive the plants!

## **Selected Action Items**

**Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.**

**How many people attended your event?**

**What species were collected or propagated?**

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

**Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.**

**Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.**

**Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)**

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

**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)**

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

**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.**

**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:**

2-21-2022

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

Monarch Pledge Resolution

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

[BCC-Resolutions - 2-21-2022 - 22-4 - MONARCH PLEDGE RESOLUTION - --508849.pdf](#)

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

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

64 milkweed plants and approx. 3 pounds of aster, coneflower seed

**How many people attended your event?**

20

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

Schumacher Farm, Village of Waunakee Public Works

**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.**

April 21st, 2022 Schumacher Park with the help of the Village of Waunakee hosted a Butterfly Garden Design Workshop/Seminar. Approximately 20 community members came and we talked about the importance of planting native plants. A slideshow and handouts were given. Free milkweed plants were given as well as free native prairie seed.

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

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

Waunakee Village Center, Village of Waunakee Public Works

**How many plants were planted?**

228

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

Two different efforts here. The first one I applied for free milkweed plants from Monarch Watch to restore some of our prairie areas. My application was accepted and I received 164 milkweed plants that I planted in three different prairie areas (Bolz Conservancy, Ripp Park, and a rain garden in the community. For the second effort, I bought 64 native prairie plants from Agrecol and then partnered with Waunakee Village Center and some volunteers this fall and planted a brand new area at Ripp Park. Before the event, I spent time in the spring and summer getting the area ready for planting this fall.

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

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

5

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

I purchased 5 monarch habitat signs from Monarch Joint Venture and they are permanently displayed at our Ripp Park Prairie. <https://store.monarchjointventure.org/products/habitat-signs?variant=40189067067437>