

# Village of Waunakee

Waunakee, WI

Village President Kristin Runge

## Pledge Summary

The Village of Waunakee is located in Dane County, Wisconsin. Waunakee is part of the Madison Metropolitan Area and has a population of nearly 16,000 people. There are many acres of natural grasslands and is home to the 13-acre Bolz Conservancy/Prairie and Ripp Park Prairie. In recent years the Village has made many efforts to restore and add native plants and habitat to our prairies. The Village of Waunakee is dedicated to continuing these efforts to help the survival of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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).
- 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).**

28

**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.)**

16 youth 12 adult

**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).**

.25

**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.**

common areas/bike paths

**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. It is fun getting the kids involved and having events that the community can be a part of.

**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?**

Journey north, Monarch Joint Venture, and NWF have great resources. I enjoy reading the monthly reports from NWF that are sent to me through email. I have posted some of the readings on our facebook page.

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

It has been great to work with our Village Community Center to facilitate events that raise awareness to monarchs and have their involvement in planting new areas in the Village of Waunakee.

## **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:**

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

**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?**

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

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

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

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

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

**How many people attended your event?**

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Indian Grass, purple prairie clover, common milkweed

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

The Village Center of Waunakee.

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

The Village of Waunakee Public Works partnered with the Village Center of Waunakee to host a community help day to collect seeds at Bolz Conservancy. We had 28 volunteers who helped collect seeds on September 23, 2023.

**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)**

It is a bike path near the library in Waunakee. Off of Madison St. The path runs along Six Mile Creek and is used daily by many walkers and bikers.

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

64

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

.25

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

We planted the prairie plants and seed on Sept. 23. I will watch the area next year and pull out/spray invasive weeds. Water as needed in the spring. We plan on burning the prairie area in 2025.

**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).**

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

[MonarchGeneralOverview\\_UpdatedFinal.pdf](#)

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

[Prairie Restoration Project \(1\).pdf](#)

**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?**

**How many plants were planted?**

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

**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?**

15

**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.**

Starting last fall and continuing this spring we will start burning prairie areas that have been neglected for a while. We are hoping this will decrease the amount of invasive shrub trees and weeds that are in these areas. After burning we can go in and cut and spray the stumps of the invasive tree species. During the summer we try and go in and mow down certain areas that are becoming overgrown with wild raspberry plants.