

Village of Waunakee

Waunakee, WI

Village President Kristin Runge

Pledge Summary

The Village of Waunakee is located in south-central Wisconsin. It is a growing and thriving community with a population of roughly 16,000 people. It is home to nearly 400 acres of parkland, two conservancies, and many public green spaces. The Village of Waunakee is committed to restoring and conserving monarch and pollinator habitats throughout our community.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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

- 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).
- 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.

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).

15

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.)

8

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).

0.25

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/parks

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

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).

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:

May of 2024

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

Monarch Pledge Resolution

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[2024 mayors resolution.pdf](#)

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.

We burn our prairies every year or every other year, weather and time permitting. Throughout the year, we manually cut down invasive woody vegetation and spray the stumps with herbicide. We also spray other noxious and invasive weeds as needed.

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.

[prairie1.jpg](#)

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

[prairie2.jpg](#)

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

[Prairie3.jpg](#)

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

[prairie4.jpg](#)

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

[Prairie5.jpg](#)

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)

Prairie Restoration program at Ripp Park in Waunakee. Included collecting seed from Bolz Conservancy and then spreading that seed along with bought native seed and 64 native plant plugs at Ripp Park prairie.

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

2

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

Kids from elementary schools in Waunakee

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

I hand out informational print outs of general prairie information and restoration. Including the types of plants we planted for the program.

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).

20

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

Village Center of Waunakee

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.

0.25

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

We will continue controlling invasive weeds that show up and plan to burn the prairie next year.