

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 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.
- 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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).

2

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

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

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.

Nothing was planted this year unfortunately. We ran out of time to do any projects.

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

Trying to reach people through Village of Waunakee's facebook page and Waunakee Monarch Facebook page

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

It is nice to get volunteers involved in prairie restoration in the Village. We love watching everything grow and spread on it's own. And of course seeing the Monarch's fluttering through the prairies during the summer is a delight!

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?

Monthly newsletters are interesting to read. It would be nice to have more resources for signs that could be put into our prairies.

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

Although we didn't get anything new planted this year, we were very busy at Bolz Conservancy this year digging holes for new posts and prairie signs that went up!

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):

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.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

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

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones.

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

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.

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.

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

Waunakee Sustainability Committee, Waunakee Parks and Public Works

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

For the last few years, I have been wanting to plant a prairie in our roundabout islands in the middle of town. Currently, they are planted with shrubs and some perennials that are not very insect and Monarch-friendly, and are also not doing very well. I finally brought up my idea to Waunakee Sustainability and the public works supervisor. I'm hoping they will let me do this project in the near future! I think it would be nice to have a low-growing prairie in the roundabout, and it would be a lot easier to maintain once it's established.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

This year I was approached by the Friends of the Library group and was asked if I wanted to help make their rooftop garden look a little better. I spoke with a lady with the group and the Buildings and Facilities Supervisor and decided next spring we are going to add monarch-friendly plugs to the rooftop garden! In time, it should become a full prairie on the rooftop!

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.

This spring, we went into the Bolz Conservancy and hand-cut down invasive elm and sprayed the stumps with herbicide. We will also be doing some burning this winter or very early spring to control the weeds. I am lucky enough to be a part of helping with the burns! It is so neat watching a prairie green up in the spring after a fresh burn!

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

[Prairie post digging.jpg](#)

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

[3 Additional Bolz Signs.pdf](#)

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

[20 Finalized Bolz Signs.pdf](#)

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

23

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

This year, we installed 23 new prairie plant signs at Bolz Conservancy. This involved making new prints with pictures and descriptions of each plant. We augered 23 holes along our prairie path and installed the new posts to accept our new signs! A lot of help and hard work went into getting this project completed this year. And they turned out really great! I've attached the PDF of what our sign printouts look like!