Village of Union

Union, IL

President Robert Wagner

Pledge Summary

Union is a village of approximately 650 residents. We are located about 60 miles northwest of Chicago. We are home to the Illinois Railroad Museum and Henry County Historical Museum. Union is still rural but development is here, too. We are looking forward to the beautiful gardens and the monarch butterflies.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President Anthony Fredrickson	2026	1/8/2026	
President Anthony Fredrickson	2025	1/14/2025	Signatories
President Robert Wagner	2024	3/12/2024	Signatories
Buildings and grounds trustee Ian McCartney	2022	12/14/2021	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

300

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." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

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). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.01

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Shared public space

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

Inviting all to come and see the garden

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

Promote beauty and nature.

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?

Library and internet - read about the butterflies and how to attract them. Maybe a local website to see what others are doing and getting new ideas from them.

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

Planted more plants. Hope to attract many more!!!

Selected Action Items

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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).

We put on the June water bill about Pollinator Week and to visit our garden. Also, we had a sign detailing information about the garden for the public knowledge.

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)

17703 O'Cock Rd. Union, Illinois

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.01

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

none

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

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in progress

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Currently in planting stage, collecting information, accessing feasibility. Goal is to be completed in 2 years.

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