Village of Port Chester

Port Chester, NY

Mayor Luis Marino

Pledge Summary

Port Chester is a Village in the Town of Rye in Westchester County, New York. The Village is a vibrant and diverse community of approximately 30,000 people situated 25 miles north of New York City. Mayor Marino is pleased to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging with residents in the creation of monarch butterfly habitat in the Village. The Mayor is aware of the importance of saving monarchs and other pollinators, and believes that encouraging the expansion of native plantings will not only benefit monarchs but all native species, as well as providing natural and beautiful spaces for Village residents

Action Items Committed for 2022

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Luis Marino	2024	3/15/2024	
Mayor Luis Marino	2023	2/15/2023	Signatories
Mayor Luis Marino	2022	1/14/2022	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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

350

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.)

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Youth 185 Adult 165

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.

0.02

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.

1. Garden at the Bush Homestead in Lyon Park, Port Chester, NY. 2.Port Chester Middle School, Port Chester, NY.

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

The Village of Port Chester is a majority low-income community with a very high Hispanic population (60-65%) so all Mayors Monarch pledge activities involve engaging with low-income communities.

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

The pledge was brought to the Mayor’s attention by the Port Chester Sustainability Committee. The intention was to raise awareness of pollinator population declines, and start creating pollinator-friendly habitat where possible in the Village. We plan to take the pledge next year, adding more pollinator habitat in different locations.

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?

Examples of language for educational signage would be helpful. It would also be helpful to have a separate Mayor Monarch pledge page available in Spanish, so we could link to it, instead of having to translate everything. The Village of Port Chester is a small geographical area and is densely populated, so space for pollinator-friendly habitat is not always easily available. We chose “Planting or maintaining a pollinator-friendly demonstration garden” because we knew, particularly in our 1st year, that we would not be able to plant a large area, so we were surprised to be asked how many “Acres” we had planted. We’re sure other communities are in similar positions, so it would be less intimidating to add “square feet” to the question.

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

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Although we signed the pledge early in the year, our intention for the Bush Homestead in Lyon Park was to grow milkweed plants from seed, then plant them out in the Fall because we have no watering facilities at the homestead garden and wanted the new plants to survive their first season. As a result, they have only been in place for just over a month. In Lyon Park, where the Bush Homestead is located, the Department of Public Works has begun to mow over leaves in the Fall, rather than blowing and removing them. This will reduce noise pollution; create natural fertilizer for the soil; provide better winter habitat for insects and birds; and increase pollinator numbers in the park generally. At the Middle School, a member of the Port Chester Sustainability Committee partnered with a teacher (in the spring) to conduct a lawn survey with children (showing them the low number of plant species growing in the area that was to become the native plant meadow) and discussing why a native wild-flower meadow was a more sustainable option than an area of mowed lawn. The creation of the meadow will be used for on-going teaching about native plants, pollinators and sustainability. There are plans to expand the meadow annually, reducing the amount of lawn and increasing pollinator habitat. The Mayors Monarch Pledge was included in the local paper – The Westmore News (circulation 3500) - when Mayor Luis Marino, Village Manager Stuart Rabin, and members of the Port Chester Sustainability Committee were photographed at the Homestead Garden with the signage and milkweed (photo attached). It was also featured on the Port Chester Sustainability Committee's Instagram & Facebook pages.

Selected Action Items

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

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

Seed Swap1 (002).jpg

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

Seed swap2.jpg

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

Seed swap3.jpg

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

Seed swap4.jpg

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

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Seed Swap5.jpg

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

Seed Swap6.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

50 Seeds: tens of thousands (milkweed, anise hyssop, goldenrod, boneset, blazing star, colombine, asters, sea-oats, turtlehead)

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

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

Port Chester Sustainability Committee (staffed the event) Port Chester Rye Brook Public Library (where the event was held) Village of Rye Brook (staffed the event) Sustainable Westchester (gave a talk about sustainability and native plantings)

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

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

Homestead2 (002).jpg

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

Homestead3 (002).jpg

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

Homestead4 (002).jpg

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

Meadow Planting 2.jpg

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

Meadow Planting 3 (002).jpg

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

Meadow Planting1.jpg

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)

50 milkweed plants have been planted in the garden of the Bush Homestead (an historic property) in Lyon Park, Port Chester, NY. (479 King Street closest address as this is a park)A pollinator meadow has been created at the Port Chester Middle School.(113 Bowman Avenue Port Chester NY)

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

Port Chester Sustainability Committee (planted the milkweed & helped with the meadow at the Middle School). Port Chester Historical Society (oversee the Bush Homestead) Port Chester Middle School Sustainability Club (planted the pollinator meadow)

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.

0.02

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Homestead2 (002).jpg

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

Homestead3 (002).jpg

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Homestead4 (002).jpg

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

Milkweed Sign.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2

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

Signs in English and Spanish have been attached to the fencing at the Bush Homestead garden in Lyon Park – a public park in Port Chester. “This milkweed was planted as part of the National Wildlife Federation Mayors’ Monarchs Pledge. Planting native species to create habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators”

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