Village of Port Chester

Port Chester, NY

Mayor Luis Marino

Pledge Summary

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.
- 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

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

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.).

400

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: 120 Adults: 280

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.

0.03

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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In addition to completing the 3 items we selected from the Mayors' Monarchs Pledge list, we also completed the following: We established Green Awards which were given to 6 local homeowners or businesses for their planting of native plants in their home of business. Large display boards were created about pollinators and native plants, for use at all our events. We attended the following events, held by other organizations, to raise awareness of our work - Decarbonization Day, May 13, organized by Rye Sustainability Committee, in Rye, New York. - Port Chester Day, Aug 26, organized by Village of Port Chester. - Department of Public Works Day, May 27, organized by Village of Port Chester. - Will also attend Village of Port Chester's Christmas Parade & Historical Society Winterfest, Dec 9.

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.

Westmore News article Seed Swap.jpg

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

In Bloom 1.jpg

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

Seed Swap Instagram.jpg

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

Seed Swap InstagramSP.jpg

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

We held a Seed Swap & Giveaway in the Spring (April 29) and in the Fall (Oct 28). We attended an "In Bloom" event at the Port Chester Middle School on May 31 where we also gave away plants and seeds. The totals from all 3 events are as follows: Plants: 100 Seeds: tens of thousands (milkweed, anise hyssop, goldenrod, boneset, blazing star, combine, asters, sea-oats, turtlehead) We will also be leaving native seed packets in the Port Chester Rye Brook Public Library for anyone to take and plant.

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

150

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

Port Chester Sustainability Committee (staffed our events) Port Chester Rye Brook Public Library (venue for Seed Swap & Giveaways) Village of Rye Brook (staffed the Seed Swap & Giveaways) Feeding Westchester (attended Middle School “In Bloom”) Middle School Giving Garden (venue for “In Bloom”) Row 7 Seeds (donated seeds) Bartlett Tree Experts (donated shrubs)

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 1, 2023

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

Mayoral Proclamation. Was read into the record and a framed copy was presented during a Village Board of Trustees meeting. The persons in the photos are the Board of Trustees and Mayor of Port Chester.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclaimation - NWF Monarch's Pedge 23.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MM-Proclamation.jpg

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.)

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

Instagram Life-cycle.jpg

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

Instagram Pollinators .jpg

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

Instagram Migration.jpg

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

Instagram Migration 2.jpg

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

Westmore News article Seed Swap.jpg

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Seed Swap Instagram.jpg

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

Port Chester Day Community Evnet 2023 .jpg

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Middle School meadow.jpg

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Print & online articles in our local paper – The Westmore News (see attached image) about both the Mayoral Proclamation and Prioritizing Native Plants. Social media posts on Instagram & Facebook about the following topics: - Monarch lifecycle - Monarch migration - Monarchs & milkweed - Replacing lawn with native plants/milkweed to increase biodiversity & pollinator habitat - Reducing/eliminating use of pesticides & fertilizer to prevent damage to pollinators & their habitat - Planting native plants, including milkweed, to encourage increase in pollinator habitat Permanent signage about planted milkweed is on display at Bush-Lyon Homestead, a historic house in one of Port Chester's public parks.

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