Village of Wonder Lake

Wonder Lake, IL

Village President Anthony Topf

Pledge Summary

Village of Wonder Lake 4444 Thompson Road Wonder Lake, Illinois 60097 Monarch Pledge Summary The Village of Wonder Lake in northern McHenry is settled around Wonder Lake, a lake with nine miles of shore line and several county managed conservation areas. The area of Wonder Lake was formed by the Laurentide Glacier 15-22,000 years ago. A section of the glacier known as the Michigan lobe flowed westward from what is now Lake Michigan into McHenry County, fluctuating back and forth for a period of about 10,000 years before eventually retreating about 16,000 years ago. Wonder Lake is a significant part of the Nippersink watershed comprised of roughly 97 square miles (62,000 acres) of land that drains to Wonder Lake. Elements of the lake area are managed by the Master Property Owners Association in conjunction with the village. In 1994 the MPOA initiated efforts to establish a grass-roots watershed planning effort to protect and enhance the natural resources present throughout the Nippersink Creek watershed. This has resulted in the establishment of the first McHenry County watershed plan in 1996. These actions demonstrate the village's commitment to long range planning and goal attainment in areas of conservation. The Village of Wonder Lake has committed to saving the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators and building upon the success of its conservation efforts. With the signing of the Mayors Monarch Pledge, Wonder Lake looks forward to engaging residents to build and maintain more pollinator habitat throughout the village.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President Dan Dycus	2026	4/13/2026	
President Dan Dycus	2025	3/5/2025	Leadership Circle
President Dan Dycus	2024	3/14/2024	Leadership Circle
Village President Anthony Topf	2022	1/26/2022	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.).

33

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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33 adults

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.

2

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.

Roadside right of ways, community garden, two empty lots (village owned), islands (kames)in Wonder Lake.

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

Much of the Wonder Lake community qualifies as low income. We have cleared invasives and established native wildflowers that attract monarchs in village owned right of ways and vacant lots within the village.

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

We have been engaged in a number of natural restoration projects in the past six years, the Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a good fit for us.

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?

The Village of Wonder Lake has established the Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Department (PHRED) , with a budget, to work of new and exsisting projects.

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

We are working with the Nippersink Watershed Association on three sites they manage (18 acres) to clear invasives and reseed and replant with native plant species.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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.

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

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?

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How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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

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.

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?

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

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

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

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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

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:

Did not do

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

Monarch Pledge

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.

PHRED - Pollinator Habitat Restoraton and Enhancement Department, Village of Wonder Lake NWA - Nippersink Watershed Association MPOA Master Property Owners Association WLSC - Wonder Lake Sportman's Club WLGC - Wonder Lake Garden Club

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

Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Department (PHRED) is charged with creating and manageing sites within the Village, ordering plants and supplies, organizing work days. NWA manages natural areas within the territory, coordinates efforts with PHRED. MPOA allows access to island sites where we are improving pollinator habitat. WLSC provides volunteers to maintain island sites. WLGC provides volunteers to help plant and maintain existing sites.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

NWA - Nippersink Watershed Association MPOA Master Property Owners Association WLSC - Wonder Lake Sportman's Club WLGC - Wonder Lake Garden Club

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Groups listed participate in monthly workdays as habitat sites were established.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

In 2022 the Village reached out to HOA's concerning their involvement in the plantings throughout the village.

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

Some representatives participated in the planting and we will continue to engage them in the maintenance of the areas planted and with future plantings.

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)

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A significant and visible planting was initiated in the 3900 block of East Wonder Lake Rd. This is an acre site. We've counted 0.1 acre here and 0.9 acres under the vacant lot category.

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

Nippersink Watershed Association, Wonder Lake Garden Club, neighbors

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.

0.1

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

2022 Report.docx

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

3900 block of East Wonder Lake Rd, a very visible 3 acre site heading into the business district of Wonder Lake. Planted over 600 native plant plugs in April 2022.

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

Village of Wonder Lake Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Department (PHRED) , Wonder Lake Garden Club (WLGC), Nippersink Watershed Association (NWA), Wonder Lake Community Club (WLCC), Wonder Lake Sportsmens Club

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

0.9

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)

1

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

April 2022

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

8500 block of Wonder View Dr, at the corner of Birchwood and Wonder View- roadside planting. 3600 block of E. Lake Shore Dr at Hickory Rd, streamside planting 3900 block of E Lake Shore Dr at Deep Spring Rd., reclaimed lot in the Village. (Additional acreage at this site is counted under vacant land.) Kame island #1 restoration. Island #2 restoration.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

500

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Neighbors to the Wonder View and East Lake Shore Dr sites act as stewards, keep tabs on changes, help organize volunteers and workdays needed. Village dept. (PHRED) orders plants and supplies as needed. WLSC organizes workdays on island projects.

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