Village of Wonder Lake

Wonder Lake, IL

President Dan Dycus

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2024

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

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.
- 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

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- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.).

15

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.)

1

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

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.

Roadsides, rights-of-way, community gardens, vacant lots, shared public spaces

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

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The village offers native plant plugs at no cost, and seed, to qualified groups and individuals

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

The Village surrounds a lake, we hae many wetland areas and protected areas.

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 given the Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Department (PHRED) a $15,000/yr budget .

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

In 2024 we planted over 1900 native plant plugs on exiting sites.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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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.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Nnippersink Watershed Association (NWA)

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Developed the entrance to a 13 acre site that the NWA manages, created a designated parking area for visitors, set up a perimeter planting area with Village help.

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.

We currently are not chemically treaing any Village owned property.

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.

We work with the NWA proscribed burns on approximately 5 acres under our jurisdictiion, on a total of nearly 20 acres we help the NWA cutting invasive trees and treating the stumps with a herbiside.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you

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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 curently have five sites that we are working with neighbors to manage with our help. As a Village Trustee I have report on my department's (Pollinator Habitat and Restoraton Enhancement dept - PHRED) on a monthly basis and we encourage our residents to join in working on road ROW's and vacant land the Village owns.

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.

7 Nippersink Watershed Association, WL Community Garden Club, Native Plant Group in Wonder View, Pollinator Restoration and Enhancement Dept (PHRED) , Meadows of Wet Bay (MOWB) HOA, Hickory Rd group, Master Properties Owners Associatiion (MPOA), and Wonder Lake Sporsmans Club. The MOWB has started working with us this past year, this is the first year the developer has turned the property over to them. The property includes a substantial oak forested area, some upland and wetland areas, and a trail system in need of management. Future projects include a bridge over a small creek on the trail system that runs through the area. This will be a large project that we will need to break into smaller objectives. There are three islands that we are working on that are owned by the MPOA. We have removed most of the invasives on two of the islands, and have added plants and seed on them, working with the Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club on a continuing basis since they have duckblinds situated on them.

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

The Village maintains and is expanding a site didicated to native plants, varilous groups are maintaining established sites in the Village, one new large site is in progress. We have included three island sites that we have been working on. We have done restoration work, planting and seeding, (helped with a grant from) and harvested seed

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

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

Village of Wonder Lake

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

In progress

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

Currently seeking information on how other local municipalties have fashioned ordinances to adrress this.

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?

Nippersink Watershed Association, Meadows of West Bay Homeowners Association (MOWB), Master Properties Owners Association (MPOA), Wonder Lake Sportman's Association.

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

in progress

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

The MOWB has started working with us this past year, this is the first year the developer has turned the property over to them. The property include a substantial oak forested area, some upland and wetland areas, and a trail system in need of management. Future projects include a bridge over a small creek on the trail system that runs through the area. This will be a large project that we will need to break into smaller objectives. There are three islands that we are working on that are owned by the MPOA. We have removed most of the invasives on two of the islands, and have added plants and seed on them, working with the Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club on a continuing basis since they have duckblinds situated on them.

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:

Dec. 4, 2024

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

Mission: to take action to help save the monarch butterfly.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation.docx

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.

Established a department - Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Department - PHRED - working actively with the Village of Wonder Lake Public Works and local subdivision boards and groups within our jurisdiction to promote native plantings and limit mowing.

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

Working with Public Works dept to establish areas of reduced mowing. One area is a steep hillside that is difficult to mow, Public Works will determine how much of this can be replanted with natives. Another area is a boulevard between the village and an unincorporated area that the Village maintains, we are working to reduce mowing in that location

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

PHRED, NWA

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

in progress

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.

Milkweed is not listed as a noxious weed in the village code

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

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

In spring of 2025 we purchased 1900 wildflower plugs , distributed and planted at four locations: Birchwood ROW in Wonder View, various Nippersin Watershed locations in the Village, the Hickory Rd small stream site, our Community Garden location, and the East Lake Shore Dr. site at Deep Springs rd. Started a native seed bank to encourage residents to collect native plant seed to be distributed at a later date. This was accomplished is a series of events.

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

5

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

Posted online with Village website and with Wonder Lake Neighbors. We work closely and coordinate efforts with the Nippersink Watershed Association, the Wonder View Parks Association (through a board member).

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)

East Wonder Lake Road at Oakwood Shores

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

Nippersink Watershed Association, Pollinator Habitat Restoratiion and Enhancement Department (PHRED)

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.

1.25

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

East Wonder Lake Road

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

Nippersink Watershed Association, PHRED

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.

1

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)

2.5

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

Original lots established in 2022, added to in 2024. Village maintains the property, does a controlled burn annually, adds plant plugs on an annual basis, and harvest seed annually.

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)

Expanded vacant lot at Birchwood and Wonder View Dr,

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

200

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.

.4

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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Annual removal of invasive species

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