Village of Wonder Lake

Wonder Lake, IL

President Dan Dycus

Pledge Summary

Wonder Lake is a fast growing community 50 miles northwest of Chicago and sitting on the southern edge of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. This is our fourth year particpating in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and we work closely with the Nippersink Watershed Association rehabing natural area sites.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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.

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.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

Selected Action Items

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)

Birchwood dr. at Wonder View Dr in the Village of Wonder lake, (2) East Lake Shore Dr. at Hickory Road in sthe Village of Wonder Lake, (3) East Lake Shore Dr. at Deep Springs rd in the Village of Wonder Lake, (4) Wooded Shore dr at East Wonder lake rd, empty lots on both sides of the road, (5) Acorn Path, a boulevard that borders on the Village of Wonder Lake and Hghland shores subdivision.

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

350

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.

3rd Saturday of every month, and occasional Tuesday mornings

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

The Village provides land for gardeners adjascent to a wildflower plot established 4 years ago by the Village. Members of this group are working weekends in November to remove invasives (honeysuckle, buckthorn, roses) from an adjscent lot and collecting wildflower seed to add there.

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

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

Village of Wonder Lake Wonder View HOA Nippersink Watershed Association

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

1) Provided a list of native plants to be used at a veterans memorial to be dedicated next spring. 2) Reduced mowing at Hickory Road site that Village maintains the lawn. 3) Developing a plan to handle a small stream and wet area behind the Wonder View HOA building. 4) Continue working with the Nippersink Watershie Association on multiple sites in Wonder Lake.

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)

0

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

0

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

Did not hold a one time event, but we encourage we do encourage native plant enthusiast to harvest seed from our demonstration plot.

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 Dr.

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 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

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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

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

East Wonder Lake Road, adjascent to Wonder Lake Gardens at Oakwood.

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.

.4

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

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

Began work in a creek that runs through the site in 2025, working the south bank adjascent to community garden site November 2026.

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?

Village -Polinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Dept. (PHRED), Nippersink Watershed Associatiion (NWA),

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

350

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Wonder Lake recently acquried a 20+ acre park (Center Core Park) in a new subdivision. Original developer established a park consentrating on native plant species that is in need of some attention. To reduce mowing we cleared and tilled an area along one of the trails (apporx. 1/2 acre) , added native seed in October, plan to establish purchasing native plant plugs to enhance the area on an annual basis.

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?

Village of Wonder Lake administrator

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.

Spring, 2027

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 Adminstrator William Beith

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.

Spring 2027

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.

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

Village of Wonder Lake Public Works department head Brad Schmule

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.

Proposed a native wildflower mixture on Shady Lake boulevard that Village of Wonder Lake Public Works maintains, approximatly 2000 ' x 12'. No target date as of now.

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).

Request in to add the Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Dept (PHRED) of the Village to the Public Works area on the Village wewbsite.

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:

january 20, 2027

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

Planning your Monarch garden.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge 2027.docx

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain

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mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Public Works Wonder lake Nippersink Watershed Association Wonder View Improvement HOA

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

Wonder Lake recently acquried a 20+ acre park (Center Core Park) in a new subdivision. Original developer established a park consentrating on native plant species that is in need of some attention. To reduce mowing we cleared and tilled an area along one of the trails (apporx. 1/2 acre) , added native seed in October, plan to establish purchasing native plant plugs to enhance the area on an annual basis.

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