Village of Mamaroneck

Mamaroneck, NY

Mayor Sharon Torres

Pledge Summary

The Village of Mamaroneck is located in Southern Westchester County, NY. As a Village we pledge to improve the habitat of the Monarch Butterfly by planting native pollinator gardens throughout our Village, planting milkweed gardens and continuing to educate residents on the importance of not using pesticides planting milkweed and native nectar producing plants and leaving the leaves for overwintering insects.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Systems Change

- 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.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Sharon Torres	2026	2/26/2026	
Mayor Sharon Torres	2025	2/12/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sharon Torres	2024	2/21/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Tom Murphy	2023	2/16/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Thomas Murphy	2022	2/10/2022	Leadership Circle

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.).

6000

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.)

2500

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.

.5

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, community gardens, a newly designated restoration site that was recently granted official park status (Nostrand Pocket Park) as well as yards and residences through our educational programing.

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

All of our events are free to the public and our current restoration project (now park status) is located in a low income neighborhood that lacks any other green spaces.

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

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Our motivation is to protect natural resources as well as create habitat and beneficial ecological environments for local wildlife and pollinators as well as to create green spaces for residents to enjoy, appreciate and learn about the importance of pollinators and habitat.

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?

We would like to see free ready-made graphics for social media to educate residents with attention grabbing facts and free engaging handouts and signage to be used within the community.

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

With each passing year we continue to exponentially expand our programming and events. We reach more people of all ages every year and are expanding our partnerships with other environmental groups and municipalities.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

CFTE.JPG

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

milkweed.jpeg

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

The Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment, the Village of Mamaroneck Parks and Recreation, the Village Manager, The Mamaroneck Public Library, the Westchester Land Trust, Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathways, etc.

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

We are working closely with Parks and Recreation to continue to create new native gardens throughout the Village and also incorporate native plants into existing gardens. We

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are adding demonstration gardens with educational signage in high visibility spots so residents can learn about pollinators and the importance of soil health and leave the leaves. We hold several educational events at the Mamaroneck public library and they are so popular that we had to cap registration! We also continue to build new relationships with organizations to expand our reach to neighboring communities including new partnerships with Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathways and the Westchester Land Trust.

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

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

Greenway.png

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

For the past two years we have begun a large restoration project that will run along the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers. This 3 mile stretch of walkable passive recreation is runs mostly through low income communities that are severely impacted by flooding. The project goal is to help alleviate flooding and educate residents on the importance of how plants and healthy soils can mitigate flooding. The process is extensive and involves local, county, state governments and the Army Core of Engineers. We are in the beginning phases of grant writing and have secured about $150,000 dollars and with this kick start will be working with an environmental design firm to begin planning out the details of the first phase.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

chalk mural.JPG

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

Wings.JPG

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

We partnered with the Village of Mamaroneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment, the VoM Parks and Recreation Department, Village Manager, Village Mayor and the local

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school districts.

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

2500

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

This past year we hosted two community art projects including, an extensive chalk butterfly mural and the erection of our 7 foot tall monarch wings in Harbor Island Park where residents and park visitors could take selfies.

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.

PLant swap 1.jpeg

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

Plant swap 2.jpeg

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

plant swap flyer.jpeg

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

winter plant swap.JPG

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

500

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

100

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

We partnered with the VoM Committee for the Environment, VoM public Library, Healthy Yards, a small local group called Planting for Pollinators, etc

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

free butterfly weed.JPG

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

seed sowing 1.jpg

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

Seed sowing 2.jpg

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

seed sowing flyer.jpeg

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

seed sowing workshop 1.jpeg

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

seed sowing workshop 2.JPG

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

seed sowing workshop 3.jpeg

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

50

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What species were collected or propagated?

Several species of milkweed as well as other varieties of native plants such as Blanket Flower, Anise Hyssop, Wild Bergamot, Black Eyed Susan, etc

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

The Village of Mamaroneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment and the VoM Public Library

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

At the event we used donated seeds from Monarch Watch and also collected seeds from local native gardens.

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.

Bumpouts.JPG

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

dog park garden.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)

The garden is located in Harbor Island Park (60-98 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck, NY 10543) and runs the full length on the exterior of a newly built dog park, a prominent location that is visible from the main road, the Boston Post Road. Harbor Island is the largest green space in the Village and is the main space for all local special events. Another demonstration garden is located at the corner of Fenimore Rd and Prospect Avenue, Mamaroeck, NY, 10543. These gardens, called the Bump Outs, were started last year but we continue to add native plants and educational signage.

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

We partnered with the Village of Mamarneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment, the VoM Parks and Recreation, the Village Manager and Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathway.

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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.

.021

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?

The Village of Mamaroneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment, the VoM Parks and Recreation Department, the Village Manager and the Village Mayor

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 Committee for the Environment and Parks and Recreation have identified multiple upcoming projects they will work on together in order to incorporate native plants into previously planted gardens lacking natives. First up is a set of garden beds call the Meighan Plots and a design will be created for those beds over the winter and installed in Spring 2025. Another project is the relocation and expansion of the Mamaroneck Community Vegetable Gardens which will also include spaces and opportunities to plant more native plants for pollinators.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

2024 Festival as of 8.16.png

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

costume 1.JPG

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

costume 2.JPG

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

costume 3.JPG

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

costume 4.JPG

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

Costume contest.JPG

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

Free seeds.JPG

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

IMG_1207.jpg

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

2700

What was the date of your festival?

September 21, 2024

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

The Village of Mamaroneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment, the VoM Parks and Recreation Department, the VoM Department of Public Works, Westchester Land Trust, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Bronx River Audubon Society, Healthy Yards, and many more.

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Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

This festival was a completely free event. We had over 20 organizations come and they each provided a free craft or educational activity for all attendees. We had food trucks, a free nature library, music, a Monarch Migration course, pollinator costume contest, free native plant pugs, thousands of free native seeds and two large art installations. We advertised the festival online and at all of the local schools. We also provided an opportunity for local teens to get involved and volunteer to help with the festival. The festival was held at Harbor Island Park from 10 AM to 1 PM in the heart of the Village of Mamaroneck. This is the 3rd year in a row we have held this festival and we had record attendance this year! We were featured in a local magazine leading up to the event and a local newspaper covered the event after. Attendees praised the event some saying that it was " one of the most inspiring community events" they had "ever been to." https://www.mamaroneckobserver.org/post/monarch-festival-a-celebration-of-community-and-environmental-stewardship

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

1-Nostrand-Site map-10 '24.pdf

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

10-3-24. copy.jpg

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

Mam'kRiv-Nostrand-5-23 knotweed copy.jpg

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

nostrand-5-23.JPG

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

Oct '24 Nostrand copy.jpg

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

UpperNostrand-10 '24 copy.jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.2

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.

Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park is an 8,500 square foot piece of land in on the Mamaroneck River where Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment has restored habitat by removing invasives and planting natives. The reclaimed status of this area and its value to the neighborhood as a pollinator space for quiet recreation was recognized by the Village of Mamaroneck who dedicated it as a park this October. A map of the location is attached. When we began work on the site in May 2023 it was extremely degraded having been used for equipment storage of heavy vehicles. We began with the area directly along the river removing some 30 bags of invasive Japanese Knotweed along with some Mugwort and Porcelain berry. The Knotweed was dug out by the root and bagged as transmissible waste. Our practice is to immediately plant into disturbed ground to prevent re-immersion of the invasives but also to prevent erosion, which we did with donated native plants including Ninebark, Silky Dogwood, Pussy Willow, Streamside Willow, Black Oak, Wetland Rose, Ostrich Ferns, and Spiderwort. In fall ’23 we continued with a 15 X 40 ft section on the sunny upper bank removing a large amount of the 3 primary invasives and planting a butterfly garden containing a variety of Asters, Goldenrod, Evening Primrose, several Spicebush and Shrubby St John’s Wort and a large amount of donated native seed. We also maintained the streambank area by digging out reemerging Knotweed. In May ’24 we tackled additional, huge, dense stands of Knotweed, Mugwort, and some Porcelain berry on the upper area and continued to maintain the entire area over the summer and fall with ongoing weeding of primarily Knotweed. Given the volume of the material, some of the invasives were held to the side and solarized while the rhizomous roots of the Knotweed were consistently bagged. As before, our process is to always plant into disturbed soil which we did extensively with Virginia Roses, Jerusalem Artichoke, Rudbeckia, Milkweed, Buttonbush, Asters, Joe Pye Weed, Mountain Mint, Senna, Little Bluestem grasses, Pussy Willow, Snakeroot, and other native plants. In addition, removing invasive plants by hand, while laborious, allows for the quick rebounding of native plants which are present in the seedbank. We carefully identify and protect those native plants and trees: with invasives gone they quickly recolonize their native ecosystem. Daisy Fleabane, Woodland Aster, Violets and other natives have returned, along with small trees such as Cottonwood, Bitternut Hickory, American Cherry, American Sycamore, White Oak, and Green Ash. In upcoming weeks, we will also be planting a large amount of donated seed of Common and Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly Weed.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

HI native garden.jpeg

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

rain garden.jpeg

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

VoM Native park.jpeg

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

We partnered with VoM Committee for the Environment, the VoM Parks and Recreation Department, the Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathway, the Harbor Island Conservancy, the local Girl Scout chapters and countless other volunteers and students organizations

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

It is hard to say exactly how many plants we planted this year, thousands of plants from seedlings, plugs to mature plants. We are always maintaining, adding to and creating new pollinator habitats throughout the Village. We work seasonally so from Spring to Fall, we are literally working in the gardens and in the winter we are growing hundreds and hundreds of plants from seed. We also work year round with the VoM Parks and Recreation Department planning out new garden spaces and opportunities to incorporate native 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.

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

Native Plant Ordinance.pdf

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

The Village of Mamaroneck (VoM) Committee for the Environment and the VoM Parks and Recreation Department, Village Manager

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

Complete

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.

The Native Plant Resolution was passed in April 2024 and I am including a copy.

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