Village of Mamaroneck

Mamaroneck, NY

Mayor Sharon Torres

Pledge Summary

We pledge to improve the habitat of the Monarch Butterfly in the Village of Mamaroneck. We will continue to educate residents on the importance of not using pesticides and planting milkweed and native nectar producing plants.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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.).

1600

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.)

400

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.

0.5

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.

Private yards and residences through educational programming, a church, & roadside beds.

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

In the past 3 years, we created 2 native plant parks totaling about 1/2 acre in mapped social justice communities and where we make extensive efforts to engage local communities in ongoing maintenance and educational programs there. Also, given the park

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status of these green sites we were able to install beautiful park benches and educational signage. We see how these amenities are drawing in many neighborhood residents.

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

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. In addition, Mamaroneck is located in the coastal flood plain of L.I. Sound and the 2 native plant parks mentioned are on rivers, so in our educational outreach we stress the additional role native plants play in stabilizing stream banks to reduce erosion that exacerbates flooding and how mature trees (e.g. oaks that support 200+ pollinating species) absorb 100's of gallons of storm water daily, additionally benefiting neighborhoods that live in fear of flooding.

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?

High quality educational signage and handouts continues to be a priority.

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

We constantly work to expand the reach of our environmental message, and this fall began a program on the local cable network, "The Green Way." Episode 1 was on "Leave the Leaves." While not specific to monarchs, the practice of leaving intact leaves in flower beds and under trees enables many pollinators, butterfly and moth species, and fireflies, and by extension birds to survive winter months. We seek to create sustainability across the food webs and educate the public about that. Just last week, we filmed Episode 2 on "Winter Seed Sowing," a follow on from our annual, in-person Library Winter Seed Sowing events. These communications show people how to easily and inexpensively grow native plants, including milkweed, to support pollinating insects.

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)

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

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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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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.

1-Native Garden Final Flyer 2.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)

90

What was the date of your festival?

July 26, 2025

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

VOM Committee for the Environment, VOM Parks Dept,

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).

In lieu of a Monarch Festival which we found we did not have the volunteer energy or capacity to deliver this year, we conducted a Native Plant Garden Tour featuring 9 homes and 2 native plant parks to put the emphasis on more concrete engagement and teaching. The tour was self-guided from 1-4pm with an online map. At 4pm, participants were invited to the Rockland Pocket Preserve for music by a local Paraguayan performer and refreshments. Many photos of the event are provided earlier.

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.

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restoration-of-a-salt-marsh.jpg

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

SALT-MARSH-Ecosystem.jpg

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

Westchester County Soil & Water Conservation District, Westchester County Planning, VOM Marine Education Center, VOM Parks Dept., and VOM Tree Committee, VOM Harbor Coastal Zone Management Commission, Vom Committee for the Environment

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.

VOM Committee for the Environment is endeavoring to protect and enhance a previous County salt marsh restoration at Harbor Island Park which contains many pollinating shrubs and hundreds of milkweed plants. This years effort was to draw attention to the ecological value of the work done to convince maintenance crew not to mow milkweed and also to push back on a neighborhood group who wanted to change the .7 restoration to more conventional gardens.

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

VOM Committee for the Environment is endeavoring to protect and enhance a previous County salt marsh restoration at Harbor Island Park which contains many pollinating shrubs and hundreds of milkweed plants. This years effort was to draw attention to the ecological value of the work done to convince maintenance crew not to mow milkweed and also to push back on a neighborhood group who wanted to change the .7 restoration to more conventional gardens. Removal of invasive knotweed and mugwort and replanting of natives will commence in summer 2026 and continue for several years. Deteriorated signage should be replaced in 2026.

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.)

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

Village of Mamaroneck, Garden Tour!.jpg

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

We communicate throughout the year via the Committee for the Environment's Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/vomenvironment/, with 800 followers and Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/VoMNYCFTE, with 1,400 followers, posting information and videos for residents. We also publicize through the Village of Mamaroneck newsletter and email blasts that reach several thousand residents. An example of one of our many communications is attached above. We also communicate through other friendly Facebook and Instagram pages, for example Westchester Pollinators, sponsored by Bedford Healthy Yards with over 3,000 followers. In November of 2025 we began a program called "The Green Way" to reach a larger audience regarding environmental sustainability including the importance of native plants and their support of pollinators including monarch butterflies.

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

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

Learn Weed and Plant flyer.jpg

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

We engage with community members through our "Learn, Weed, & Plant" activity from March through November maintaining our native plant parks and gardens, but also Winter Seed Sowing Workshop in January, 2 Native Plant Swap and Giveaways in '25 and other events, reaching out community-wide. Groups include: The Community Resource Center, Washingtonville Neighborhood Association, Orienta Neighborhood Association, Shore Acres N. A., Harbor Island Park, Conservancy, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Marine Education Center, and others. Members of Committee for the Environment engage with these groups and individuals via email but also by cultivating visibility through a private Facebook group--Planting for Pollinators-Larchmont-Mamaroneck with 550 members, and Westchester Pollinators, a public group with 3,200 members to name two.

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

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

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1-Native Garden Final Flyer 2.JPG

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

Soft Landings Garden Plants.docx

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

Visitors-Partners Tour.jpeg

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

Nostrand Volunteers.JPEG

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

Nostrand-Garden Tour.JPEG

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

RocklandLiterature.HEIC.JPEG

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

GardenTourSign.jpg

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

NostrandTour.jpg

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

Alli-GardenTour.JPEG

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

Kate RP sign.JPEG

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

Visitors Nostrand.jpg

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

14+ Groups participated including: The Community Resource Center, Washingtonville Neighborhood Association, Orienta Neighborhood Association, Shore Acres N. A., Harbor Island Park, Conservancy, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Marine Education Center, VOM Tree Committee, VOM Flood Mitigation Committee, Larchmont Environmental Committee, Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative, OCRA students at Mamaroneck High School, Girl Scouts, Lions Club, and others.

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

At all of our events we discuss best practices for healthy yards. A major effort was our Native Plant Garden Tour which showcased native plant gardens, reducing lawn, and best practices at private homes and in our 2 native plant parks, the Rockland Pocket Preserve and Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park.

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.

NativePlantSwap.JPG

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

Plant Swap Flyer-Repair Cafe.jpg

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

PlantSwapCrew 5'25.JPG

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

800

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

160

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

2 Native Plant Swap and Giveaway events were held, sponsored by VOM Committee for the Environment, and partnering withLarchmont Environmental Committee, Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative, Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathways.

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.

Winter-Seed-Sowing.jpg

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

WInterSowing_Schaub_January_2024.pdf

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

WinterSowing.png

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

Milk Jugs.jpg

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Many natives including Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias tuberosa, and Asclepias incarnata, Annise Hysop, Rudbeckia Hirta and others.

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

VOM Committee for the Environment, Mamaroneck Library, Pollinator Pathways

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

Seed was collected from VOM native plant parks and gardens and through gardens of individual members of Committee for the Environment and their friends. This "Winter Seed

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Sowing" workshop showed residents how to grow natives in the winter. Each participant left with at least 2 jugs of native plants. We also distributed seed to participants to do additional winter sowing, or to plant directly outside. Additional seeds were made available at the Mamaroneck Library's seed library.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

1-Learn Weed and Plant flyer.jpg

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

Rockland Pocket Preserve, intersection of Rockland and Fayette Avenues, Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park, intersection of Howard and Nostrand Aves, across fro 210 Nostrand Ave., Columbus Park Flagpole Pollinator Garden, Dog-Park Pollinator Garden in Harbor Island Park, Harbor Island Pollinator Garden at Big Rock, Fenimore Bump Out Gardens at intersection of Prospect Avenue and Fenimore Rd. Recently, gardens at Meighan Park, were recently replanted with natives. The design was done by a member of VOM Committee for the Environment who supervised the acquisition and planting which was done by the VOM Parks Department. The park donors, Meighan Trust were persuaded to make the change to native plants through educational efforts of Committee for the Environment.

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

VOM Committee for the Environment, VOM Parks Dept, Larchmont Mamaroneck Pollinator Pathways, Heart of the Hudson Girl Scouts and other troops, and Meighan Trust.

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.

.7

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)

7

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

This process began in 2022 and is ongoing. Maintenance is primarily done by volunteers organized by Committee for the Environment who organizes volunteers (see above, using

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Signup Genius) for weeding sessions of 2 hours each at each locations, meeting 2 to 4 times a month from March to November.

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

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

GirlScouts working 9 '25.jpg

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

GirlScouts-Rockland 9 '25.jpg

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

Picker family w Painted Lady.jpg

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

Picker's w PaintedLady Rockland.jpg

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

Ray BeachPlums.JPG

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

Robert,Jonathan.jpg

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

Oct 19 '25 Rockland.jpg

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

FlagpoleGarden Oct '25.jpg

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

Flagpole2 10 '25.jpg

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

FlagpoleHelper 10 '25.jpg

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

Volunteers Rockland june '25.jpg

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

Lions-Rockland June '25.jpg

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

DogparkPollinator-9 '25.JPG

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

FenimoreMaint 10 '25.jpg

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

MeighanPlanting1 9 '25.jpg

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

MeighanPlanting2 9 '25.jpg

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

1-Learn Weed and Plant flyer.jpg

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

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The many community groups that have participated in planting and maintenance efforts have been named above. Scouts who helped in September are pictured above along with local individuals who came through our "Learn, Weed, & Plant" program and outreach through various community organizations such as the Lions.

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

800

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

A troop of 5th graders came to help weed in September (2 pix above), and a family came down to release Painted Lady butterflies, raised through Girl Scouts and in need of our pollinating plants. 100's of volunteer hours occurred at our 2 parks and now 5 pollinator gardens, a few of which are pictured. The replanting of Meighan Park with natives was also a major milestone, a collaboration of VOM Parks, CFTE, and the Meighan Family Trust.

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-WeedingInvasivesSeminar.PNG

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

1b-NYSDEC Prism on chemicals.pdf

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

1-Invasive Plants Recommendations.pdf

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

1c-Fiight Plants w Plants -List.pdf

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

.7

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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.

VOM CFTE offered a program at Mamaroneck Library in Jan '25 (above) to share our approach to invasive species management. Given the amount of degraded land along the rivers, the pressure from invasive plants is great and the program is ongoing and extensive using only manual control. NYS PRISM 2016 recommendations were included in the seminar's curriculum as support for this approach. Our approach is summarized in the attached seminar handout and is executed through our "Learn, Weed, & Plant" program. Our expertise is acquired through subject study and attending PRISM seminars offered in conjunction with Westchester County Planning. We recommend fighting plants with plants, an approach developed in collaboration with Bedford Healthy Yards and Pelham's EcoPel. An educational handout from Humane Gardener with specific plant recommendations from the seminar is also attached. We hope to enlarge this effort and recruit high school students to a "Knotweed Squad" modelled on Westchester County groups like Hastings "Vine Squad" as we tackled larger incursions of invasives, particular in the Harbor Island Salt Marsh area, where a great deal of Knotweed and Mugwort is displacing milkweed and other native plants.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1-Caterpillar 30x24.jpg

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

1-Leave the leaves (1).jpg

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

Greenway-flyer-01.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

15

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Educational signs are in the 6 locations detailed previously, including several we don't have pdf's of. They detail the value of native plants in supporting pollinating insects and also the importance of leaving leaf litter in keeping overwintering insects alive over the winter months.

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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.

1-Maintenance Native Plant Parks Gardens 2-11-25.pdf

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

NativePlantRes-April 2023.pdf

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

Parks & CFTE Collaborate 11 '25.jpg

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

We work with VOM Parks, DPW, and Marine Education Center. Further efforts have been made through dialogue with Harbor Island Conservancy and new VOM Beautification Committee with whom we shared information on the importance of native plants as expressed in the Native Plant Resolution which we passed in 2023.

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

Village of Mamaroneck is lightly staffed and has no sustainability officers so this effort is direct with General Foreman of DPW and Parks Foreman. Discussions re more sustainable practices occur during meetings and via email. The process is iterative and is described in the document on maintenance uploaded above.

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