Village of Ridgefield Park

Ridgefield Park, NJ

Mayor John Anlian

Pledge Summary

The Village of Ridgefield Park, settled in 1685, is a residential urban-suburban community located in southeast Bergen County, New Jersey, and proudly boasts one of the longest continuous Fourth of July parades in the USA. It was first established in 1894. Like this grand country, Ridgefield Park is a rich source of good old American history. Our Public Library is a great place to learn more about us. Of 565 municipalities statewide, Ridgefield Park is one of only four with a village type of government in New Jersey operating a Walsh Act (city commission) form of government. Mayor John Anlian of Ridgefield Park, NJ is committed to saving the monarch butterfly by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and he looks forward to engaging residents into building more monarch friendly gardens throughout the town.

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Adam MacNeill	2026	2/3/2026	

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Mayor Adam MacNeill	2025	3/10/2025	Signatories
Mayor Adam MacNeill	2024	2/20/2024	Signatories
Mayor John Anlian	2023	3/9/2023	Signatories
Mayor John Anlian	2022	3/8/2022	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.).

85

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.)

20 youth and 65 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.

.01

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.

High School, Community Gardens (2 separate gardens), Municipal Building, Department of Public Works, Nature Preserve

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

All gardens are in heavily trafficked areas, all have signage with QR codes for NWF website/Our MMP page for everyone in the community to see, enjoy and learn from.

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

Resident Girl Scout Gianna Terrarosa felt that having her town participate in the MMP would help to spread the word about her Gold Award Project and reach many more people in town and beyond to the plight of the Monarch.

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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?

NWF emails, Jersey Yards.org, Community Master Gardeners, RP Library, RP Enviornmental Commission and RP Green Team

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

It was a lot of work but rewarding. We feel that the word about monarchs is being spread and hope to get even more interest in the coming year.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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).

100

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

RP Library, RP Enviornmental Commission

When did this challenge take place?

May - June 2022

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.

.01

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Educated people to the plight of the monarch and other pollinators and asked that they plant native. Handed out many packets of seeds as well as making many available for community members to take at will. Hundreds of seed packets were taken, hopefully we will see more pollinator plants in town in 2023. Gianna Terrarosa and Nicole Kachadoorian oversaw and coordinated the challenge with support from Sustainable Ridgefield Park Chair and the Municipal Commissioner who oversees that aforementioned committee. This commissioner reported back to the overall Board of Commissioner on the plantings in municipal spaces. Some social media was used to keep the community informed of the different locations where the plantings took place.

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:

May 10, 2022

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

The Village of Ridgefield Park Board of Commissioners Proclamation - Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day - May 21, 2022

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Mayor's Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.

Request for Community Garden Outreach.pdf

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

Gianna Terrarosa initially requested that the Mayor and Commissioners take the pledge at a public meeting and then wrote to Mark Olson, Commissioner of Community Gardens to ask the gardeners to participate. The gardeners including Mark and Leslie Olson planted four gardens in park locations, at the municipal building and the Department of Public Works. Gianna took plants from her original pollinator garden and planted them in one of the new gardens.

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.

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

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

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

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Hundreds of seed packets were given away: At events that were held at our public library and were available to take for a long period of time when visiting the library, Gianna stocked and restocked the little library where residents were able to take free packets, they were given away at out Earth Day event to many visitors.

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

85

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

Girl Scouts, Ridgefield Park Public Library, RP Environmental Commission, RP Green Team, RP Mayor and Commissioners

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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)

Ridgefield Park JS High School, 1 Ozzie Nelson Drive, 10 x 10 garden, this area is wetlands and where our new nature preserve is located

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

Girl Scout, Gianna Terrarosa; RP Citizen Volunteers, RP Enviornmental Commission, Commissioner Olson and the RP DPW

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.

0.01

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.

2022 Earth Day Just One Plant participation.jpg

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pollinator Garden Sign.png

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

Girl Scouts, High School Administration, Environmental Commission, Community members, DPW, Ridgefield Park Library, Green Team, Community Gardeners Association, Mayor and Commissioners, local businesses in town and businesses outside of town.

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

The high school administration permitted the planting of the first garden on high school property by Girl Scout Gianna Terrarosa for her "Just One Plant" Gold Award and allowed for education to be done onsite. Our local hardware store provided some plants for the garden and our local print shop created a sign to promote the garden. Community members helped with the framing and planting the plants in the garden. The Environmental commission supported the creation of said garden and one member became the Gianna's expert mentor for the project. They also invited Gianna to have a table at our Earth Day where people were educated to the plight of the monarch as well as given native seeds to plant to help the monarch and all pollinators. The DPW assisted with digging out the area and providing and laying natural mulch in the garden. The Ridgefield Park Public Library was awarded the grant that provided all the seeds for the giveaway and allowed Gianna to do programming for children, teens and adults. Members of the Green Team and Community Gardeners created the additional gardens in town. The Mayor and Commissioners supported the project and created the proclamation and read it at our Earth

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Day Celebration. Businesses outside of town but still very local donated soil, plants, building materials, signage, and educational materials.

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