Village of Ridgefield Park

Ridgefield Park, NJ

Mayor Adam MacNeill

Pledge Summary

The Village of Ridgefield Park, Bergen County, New Jersey, Settled in 1685, proudly boasts one of the longest continuous Fourth of July parades in the USA. Like this grand country, Ridgefield Park is a rich source of good old American history. Ridgefield Park has a population of approximately 13,300 (5,800 households) and has 1.71 square miles of land. We have a newly constructed nature preserve, two beautiful community gardens and six pollinator gardens. Mayor Anlian committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators during his tenure with his signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the village. Mayor MacNeill, elected in 2024, continues to support the pledge.

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

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

150

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.)

70

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.

0.01

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.

Additional plants were added at the community gardens and residents' homes

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

More than 50 % of Ridgefield Park's population is Hispanic/Latin heritage. That population is involved in activities at the community gardens and nature preserve.

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

The town feels it is a worthwhile pursuit to educate it's citizens to the plight of the monarch as well as teach them about the overall benefit of native plants for the community and our environment.

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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?

We have not taken advantage of NWL online resources as of yet. Our nature preserve and our gardens affords us access to high-quality, usable nature for our community.

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

The action we removed, converting vacant land to native habitat, was delayed due to a change in government. We intend to perform this action in 2025.

Selected Action Items

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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:

April 9, 2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day - 5/11/24

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2024 MMP Proclamation Year #3.pdf

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.)

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

May 2024 Newspaper article.docx

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

2024 Earth Day.jpg

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

20240713 Fiery skipper on milkweed planted by resident.jpg

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

20240717 Flowering Milkweed planted by resident.jpg

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

Our town newsletter was used to for public communication and outreach. Participation in the annual Earth Day with a table of information helped to increase exposure with over a dozen visitors getting more information. Pictures attached of Milkweed planted by a resident in response to our newsletter article.

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.

2024 no mow may.jpg

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

Sustainable Ridgefield Park, Ridgefield Park DPW, Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission, Ridgefield Park citizens.

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

Facebook Post - Ridgefield Park is with Sustainable Ridgefield Park in Ridgefield Park, NJ. May 3 If you haven't yet picked up your No Mow May sign, good news! We've arranged for two additional pick-up locations: SATURDAY, MAY 4 9:30AM-10:30AM McGOWAN COMMUNITY GARDEN BERGEN TURNPIKE SATURDAY, MAY 11 10:00AM-3:00PM EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 24 INDUSTRIAL AVE. (Stop by the Sustainable Ridgefield Park Table) And here's why it matters: By participating in No Mow May and displaying your sign, you're contributing to a more Eco-friendly community. No Mow May encourages biodiversity and supports pollinators by allowing grasses and wildflowers to grow naturally. Let's join together in making our community greener and more sustainable!

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.

Winter seed sowing 2024.jpg

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

Ridgefield Park Community Gardeners, RP Enviornmental Commission, Sustainable Ridgefield Park and Community members

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

32

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

A joint effort between the RP Environmental Commission and Sustainable Ridgefield Park held a "Seed Sowing Workshop" on January 26, 2024. 17 community members were in attendance and as a result 22 native plants were added to Ridgefield Park overall at private residences. Plus, the RP Community gardeners added an additional 10 plants to the community gardens.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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meet the pollinators.jpg

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

Journey of the Monarch in North America.jpg

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

20230614_165230.jpg

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

12

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

2 signs are used for education, one about the Monarchs and the migration story and the second sign shares information about the importance of other pollinators in gardens.

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.

MMP STC Native trees May 2024.docx

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

Advocacy Alert invasives letter.docx

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

RP Enviornmental Commission, RP Shade Tree Commission

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

In progress

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

The letter to the Shade Tree Commission was written in response to an Advocacy Alert. See attached. Shade tree commission will start making this change during the ordering process this season.

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