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 2025

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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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.).

175

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.)

75

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.

Residents homes, DPW, Municipal Building

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 the 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 its citizens to the plight of the monarch butterfly 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 NWF online resources as of yet. Out 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 Environmental Commission has attempted monarch tagging.

Selected Action Items

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:

2-25-2025

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

Monarch Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge signed proclamation 2025.pdf

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.

2025 No Mow May.jpg

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

2025 Winter Seed Sowing.jpg

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

15

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What species were collected or propagated?

Milk Weed, Penstemon, Zizia and Coneflower

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

Environmental Commission and Sustainable Ridgefield Park

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

The Environmental Commission along with Sustainable Ridgefield Park held a Winter Seed Sowing Program In January. The EC did a Milkweed Giveaway in May. The Environmental Commission and Mayor's Monarch Pledge was present at our Earth Day Celebration. Ridgefield Park held its 3rd year of No Mow May and in September the Environmental Commission had a Seed Collection Program at the Nature Preserve.

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)

We have a garden at our High School/Nature Preserve, Our Municipal Building, Our Community Gardens (2), Our Town Pool and our DPW. The gardens at the Nature Preserve and the Community gardens extend the general interest of nature to the specific interest of the Monarch Butterfly and pollinators. The garden at the Municipal Building shows the concern and interest of our town governing body for the Monarch and pollinators.

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

The Mayor and Commissioners, The Environmental Commission, The Community Gardeners, DPW and the citizens of Ridgefield Park

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

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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.

20220702_120127.jpg

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

20230614_165230.jpg

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

20230614_171001.jpg

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

Pollinator Garden Sign.png

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

19

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

Every garden has at least three signs, a Mayor's Monarch Garden sign, an educational sign about the Monarchs, an educational sign on pollinators and the garden by the Nature Preserve, the 1st garden, has a sign with a QR code to a website that informs interested citizens about what was done in town and education.

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

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

2025 New Garden DPW.jpg

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

2025 New Planting Area Municipal Building.jpg

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

Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Committee, DPW, Mayor and Commissioners

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

In Progress - Our town will continue to add Native Trees, Shrubs and plants on an ongoing basis.

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

There have been additional native plants added at our Municipal Building, our DPW, and throughout our town. As mentioned above this will be an ongoing project, adding additional native planting every year.

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.

2-10-25 newsletter article.docx

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

2025 No Mow May.jpg

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

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Printed Material - Town Newsletter, Kiosks at our Nature Preserve, Social Media - Facebook/Instagram We had 10 RP Residents request Milkweed plants.

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