Village of Mundelein

Mundelein, IL

Mayor Steve Lentz

Pledge Summary

Mundelein is a vibrant and progressive community of nearly 32,000 residents. The Village is located in the center of beautiful Lake County Illinois, one of the strongest areas of commercial and industrial growth in the nation, with excellent housing, recreational, educational and business opportunities. In terms of beautification and outdoor recreation, Mundelein's award-winning park district oversees 33 neighborhood parks, 5 golf courses, Barefoot Bay Waterpark, and Diamond Lake Beach, to name just a few amenities. Mundelein also has an extensive network of bike trails, walking paths, and a transit-oriented and walkable downtown--one of the Village's focus areas. Mundelein's Beautification Committee, established in 2021, recognizes the importance of saving monarchs and commits to planning activities to engage the public in this endeavor. Some activities include seed distribution, educational seminars, Spring into Summer Festival, and planting pollinator habitats in public spaces.

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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.

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- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- 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

- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Lentz	2024	3/27/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Lentz	2023	3/16/2023	Signatories
Mayor Steve Lentz	2022	3/15/2022	

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.).

400

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.)

50

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.

3

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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.

residences, community parks and schools

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

We are trying to include all of the diverse communities in Mundelein in our marigolds campaign because marigolds provide monarch habitat and are important in Hispanic and Asian culture. We have also tried to provide more materials in Spanish. as well as English.

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

We started a Beautification Committee and were looking at a framework to launch that committee's efforts.

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?

This program offers very limited resources for participants and we have not found them particularly helpful.

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

We will continue our monarch habitat friendly efforts but may not continue with this program after this year.

Selected Action Items

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.

skate park mural.jpg

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

Mundelein Arts Commission, Mundelein Parks and Recreation District

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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).

5

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).

The Mundelein Arts Commission had a new mural painted at the Lions Skate Park that includes information about skating, Mundelein history, and plants that grow around the park. Additional information about the plants can be obtained by linking to a website utilizing a QR code. This mural was a great cooperative project and is located in a very public place. The Mundelein Arts Commission is partnering with the Mundelein Beautification Committee to create a decorated fiberglass star to add to an outside art display of stars throughout the Village. This star will have a marigold, monarch, and Hispanic heritage theme because of the role that monarchs and marigolds play in Hispanic culture.

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)

There is a demonstration garden at 300 Plaza Circle, Mundelein IL and a pollinator garden to the north of Courtland Commons Park (400 Courtland St, Mundelein IL)

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

The demonstration garden was completed with assistance from some local gardeners and is maintained by the Beautification Committee. The pollinator garden was completed with assistance from the Lake County Audubon Society and American in Bloom.

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.

.3

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

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

Various gardening organizations and influential members of the community were involved in promoting marigolds in Mundelein.

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

For several years, the Beautification Committee has handed out marigold seed packets and plants in order to encourage people to plant marigolds to celebrate our diverse population and provide nectar for monarch butterflies. Residents that live at single family homes have been encouraged to plant milkweed as well, but marigolds can be planted in containers as well making them a more versatile plant. Seeds were handed out at multiple events and locations throughout the year.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

we gave away seeds not plants, this included 1000 packets of marigold seeds and a variety of native plant seeds

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

200

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

Mundelein Farmer's Market, Fremont Township Garden, Mundelein District 75, and all of the groups that participated in our Spring into Summer Fest, described below.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

3

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

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An effort to create and place addition signs describing specific plants has been started but is not complete. The gardens themselves are marked.

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

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

Wild Ones of Lake County and Lake County Audubon Society have approached the Beautification Committee about this.

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.

There are a variety of community organizations that are working to encourage planting native plants, shrubs and trees, but it is a long process to update landscaping ordinances and many native choices are aggressive and require constant maintenance. As landscaping is updated, natives are considered but they are not the only alternative.

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.

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)

100

What was the date of your festival?

June 1, 2024

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

Tighthead Brewery, School of Rock in Libertyville, Lake County Forest Preserve District Educators, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), Mundelein Arts Commission, Lake County Audubon Society, Wild Ones of Lake County, Reach Rescue, Mundelein Gardeners, Fremont Township Garden, Mundelein Parks and Recreation District, Green

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Oaks, Mundelein, Libertyville, and Vernon Hills Chamber of Commerce, Mundelein Community Connection, several individual in the community who have an interest in gardening.

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).

The event was held on the afternoon of June 1, 2024. It rained throughout the day and we eventually had to end the event early but the people who did attend were extremely interested and excited about the variety of groups that came and information that was shared. Participating organizations plan to return and some additional groups are excited about participating in the future. We are hoping for better weather next year. We had a total of 19 community organizations, individuals and businesses that participated in the event. Publicity was done in English and Spanish. The event was held in the parking lot in front of a local Microbrewery, providing a hard surface and making the event easily accessible.

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:

4/8/2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Monarch Pledge.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Monarch Pledge.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.)

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

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The Village of Mundelein has used Village Social Media accounts to publicize efforts to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. In 2023, the Mayor of Mundelein, Steve Lentz, planted a pollinator and butterfly garden at his home. A video tour of his garden was produced and is still available on line. Information regarding native garden options and monarch gardens prepared and distributed by other organizations including the Sold Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), the Lake County Illinois Extension, Lake County Forest Preserve District, and Lake County Wild Ones is shared and promoted through Village of Mundelein social media accounts, electronic newsletters and Village Hall literature racks. In addition, in 2024 the Village of Mundelein Beautification Committee started a Beautification Newsletter.

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

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

The Village of Mundelein has engaged with local garden clubs and community garden groups to encourage them to plant native milkweeds and nectar producing plants. The Village has actively promoted planting marigolds throughout the Village to provide nectar sources for monarch butterflies. Marigolds can be seen in many home gardens and in the community garden at St. Andrews Church in Mundelein.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

The Village of Mundelein has engaged with other organizations including the Sold Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), the Lake County Illinois Extension, Lake County Forest Preserve District, the Lake County Audubon Society and Lake County Wild Ones to promote monarch butterfly conservation. The Beautification Committee has also engaged with other community leaders who are involved in native plant and/or gardening projects including private citizens interested in the preservation of native oak trees and local gardening enthusiasts.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The Beautification Committee held a Spring into Summer event with representatives of local groups that are engaged in garden projects to support monarch butterfly conservation. These included SWALCO, Lake County Master Gardeners, the Lake County Forest Preserve District Educators, Lake County Audubon Society, Lake County Wild Ones, the Fremont Township Garden, and several individuals who are involved in conservation and gardening efforts in the area. Several of these groups also participated in a garden themed Farmer's Market Event. The Mundelein Beautification Committee has

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started to work on becoming a Bird City with the assistance of the Lake County Audubon Society.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The Mundelein Community Development Department and Mundelein Public Works and Engineering Department have worked to make sure that monarch habitats have been developed throughout the Village of Mundelein, specifically through the development of the park at Courtland Commons and by incorporating opportunities for pollinator friendly landscaping at new developments throughout the Village.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Courtland Commons Park, 400 Courtland Street, Mundelein IL

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

Lake County Audubon Society, America in Bloom

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.

5

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)

5

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

Conversion of the area began in 2019, this was previously the location of a picture frame and then a guitar factory that was torn down and converted into a stormwater retention

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area with a pollinator garden and a public park. The pond and pollinator garden are still under warranty and maintained by the landscaping company.

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