Village/Town of Mount Kisco

Mount Kisco, NY

Mayor Gina Picinich

Pledge Summary

Mount Kisco, located in Westchester, NY, is a vibrant community filled with green spaces, quaint neighborhoods, and a walkable downtown. Although just three square miles, it is a premier destination for dining, shopping, entertainment and award winning medical care. Lead by our Conservation Advisory Council, Mount Kisco is a part of Healthy Yards' Pollinator Pathways project that encourages pollinator friendly native plantings. Our community is committed to enhancing and maintaining a natural environment that supports Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.

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- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michael Cindrich	2025	12/9/2024	
Mayor Gina Picinich	2023	3/31/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Gina Picinich	2022	3/22/2022	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.).

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.)

100 youth, 300 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.

1

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.

Along Branch Brook near Village Hall, library and Marsh Sanctuary.

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

Personal outreach and inclusion of local organizations such as Neighbors Link. Event flyers and educational materials in Spanish.

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

Many townspeople, especially our Pollinator Pathway Project, saw the reduction in pollinators, especially Monarch Butterflies, and realized we need to increase our efforts . The Conservation Advisory Council brought the program to the Village Board and the Mayor's attention. The Mayor was excited to join!

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?

All the info from NWF, Audubon, and NYS DEC, plus helpful answers from pollinator-pathway.org

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

We were in constant communication with Village officials and staff to advise them to plant native plant species that are pollinator friendly.

Selected Action Items

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.

2_John Rhodes Photo_Volunteers at Flewellyn Garden.jpg

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

Bee_milkweed1_0622.jpg

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

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Branch Brook Greenway.jpeg

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

FLewellyn_092421_Monarch-1620051.jpg

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

flewellyn_library_plaque final flat.jpg

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

MK_Library_Butterfly_Garden_0719.jpg

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

Grove and Hyatt above).jpg

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)

A demonstration pollinator garden is located on Grove Street and East Hyatt Avenue in the Laura Flewellyn Town Park. Ms. Flewellyn was one of the first naturalist in our town and taught her student in the elementary school, for 40 years, that “Conservation is our Job”. Two other teaching gardens include the Library Butterfly Garden located outside the Mount Kisco Public Library and the Susanne Grant Memorial Garden located along Branch Brook in downtown Mount Kisco, and the Branch Brook Greenway Pollinator Garden.

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

Conservation Advisory Council, the Beatification Committee, Historical Society, Recreation Department, DPW, Boys and Girls Club, Mount Kisco Trail Team, Marsh Sanctuary, Bedford Garden Club, Susan Grant Foundation, Michael's Garden Gate Nursery, Fillipine Hoagland and Judy Terlizzi.

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.

1.5

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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.

Arbor day tree givaway.jpg

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

SFN_Arbor_Day.jpg

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

Over the year we were engaged with 10 local groups and organizations. They are the Conservation Advisory Council, Beatification Committee of Mount Kisco, the Mount Kisco Historical Society, Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Mount Kisco Trail Team, Marsh Sanctuary, the Water Shed Agricultural Council and the Bedford Garden Club.

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

We received substantial help from these organizations in the form of plant donations, tree donations, expert advice, labor, publicity, and moral support.

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.

Farmers_Market_CAC_Mark_07032b2.jpg

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

IMG_8617.jpg

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

IMG_8618.jpg

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

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Over 200 native seed packets, and over 100 native flowering trees and shrubs at all events combined.

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

300

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

Our community engaged with the Mount Kisco Arts Council, Historical Society, Tree Board, Mayor Picinich, State Assemblyman Burdick, and WMN Unite.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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

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.

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

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?

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

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.

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

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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?

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

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.

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

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

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

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.

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

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.

Arbor day art.jpg

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

Nature Photo Exhibit.jpg

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

The Conservation Advisory Council, the Mount Kisco Arts Council, Friends of the Library, Mount Kisco Historical Society, Recreation Department, DPW, MK Trail Team, Marsh Sanctuary, Watershed Agricultural Council and the Mount Kisco Tree Board.

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).

400

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).

We engaged our community in several different art projects. The two that stand out the most are the Arbor Day Tree Art open to children 18 years old and younger and the annual Nature of Mount Kisco Photography exhibit. Each of these community art projects have ceremonies where recognition and awards are handed out to participants by Mayor Picinich. Environmental education is an essential aspect of both events.

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.

Screen Shot 2022-12-01 at 1.23.01 PM.png

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

Screen Shot 2022-12-01 at 1.26.04 PM.png

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

Screen Shot 2022-12-01 at 1.28.37 PM.png

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

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Monarch_Flewellyn_Flyer22a_Span copy 2.jpg

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

Flewellyn poster .pdf

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

We created Instagram and Facebook posts and entries to promote planting monarch gardens at home or in neighborhoods as well as educational posts about pesticide use. We also printed brochures that we then posted in local stores and community organizations. We had a biweekly table at our village's farmer's market where we engaged with residents and we had articles published in local newspapers.

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.

IMG_4685.jpeg

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

IMG_5159.jpeg

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

IMG_5174.jpeg

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

nova flewellyn.jpeg

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

We engaged with the following groups in a hands on fashion out in multiple gardens. The Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council, Beatification Committee, Hist Society, DPW, MK Trail Team, Marsh Sanctuary, and the Bedford Garden Club.

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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.

2_John Rhodes Photo_Volunteers at Flewellyn Garden.jpg

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

Branch Brook Greenway.jpeg

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

20190628-Flewellyn_Garden4.jpeg

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

DW_N2_Flowers Branch Brook _22.jpg

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

IMG_5152.jpeg

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

Conservation Advisory Council, Beatification Committee, Historical Society, DPW, Mount Kisco Trail Team, Marsh Sanctuary, Bedford Garden Club

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We worked with the groups mentioned above to maintain native milkweed and nectar producing plants in community gardens including the Flewellyn Pollinator Garden, the Library Butterfly Garden, the Branch Book Greenway Garden, the Susan Grant Memorial Garden and the garden at Marsh Sanctuary. These groups helped to plant, weed and water to ensure all nectar producing plants and milkweed thrived.

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.

PPsign.jpg

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

Heron No Mow Cafe.jpg

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

NoMow_081519.jpg

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

Flewellyn poster .pdf

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

50

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

Many of the signs read "pesticide free - native plants" and "no mow zone". They provide other information as well.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

IMG-6932.jpg

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

Arbor Day foundation Tree City USA

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

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Conservation Advisory Council, Beatification Committee, the Mount Kisco Tree Board, Recreation Department, and DPW.

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.

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

IMG_8624.jpg

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

IMG_8625.jpg

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

3.6

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.

We worked with volunteers to remove invasive plants from parks and trails in Mount Kisco. These invasive plants were removed by ripping and digging them out by the root as well as cutting them back. No pesticides were used.

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 23, 2022

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

Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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