Crystal Lake Park District

Crystal Lake, IL

Executive Director Jason Herbster

Pledge Summary

Charged with providing park and recreation services for approximately 55,000 residents, the Crystal Lake Park District system includes 42 parks spanning over 1,400 acres and program offerings of over 1,000 annually. Facilities include the Nature Center, Main and West Beaches, Colonel Palmer House, Lippold Family Golf Center, Boncosky Softball Complex at Lippold Park, Grand Oaks Recreation/Active Adult Center, the Racket Club, Barlina House Preschool, and numerous picnic shelters. In addition to parks, facilities and programs, the district maintains miles of bike and hiking trails enjoyed by many throughout the year. It is the mission of the Crystal Lake Park District to enrich all lives through Recreation, Parks and Nature.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Executive Director Jason Herbster	2026	4/8/2026	
Executive Director Jason Herbster	2025	3/27/2025	Signatories
Executive Director Jason Herbster	2024	3/29/2024	Signatories
Executive Director Jason Herbster	2023	3/3/2023	Signatories
Executive Director Jason Herbster	2022	3/22/2022	Signatories

Action Items

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u653:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

10000

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.)

5000 youth and 5000 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.

parks and common areas

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

Monarch / pollinator plantings, along with signage, have been located in a variety of neighborhood parks and all programs have been free to the public.

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

The Crystal Lake Park District has a long history of working to provide habitat for monarchs and other native species. Joining the Mayors' Monarch Pledge was a natural extension as a means of getting the word out to the community about the importance of our 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?

At this time we have been able to accomplish all of our goals with the current resources provided by the NWF.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u653:v1.14.0.49966]

In the past, the Crystal Lake Park District has worked to provide monarch habitat through high quality natural areas. The Mayors' Monarch Pledge has helped us draw increased attention to these areas. It has also provided motivation to increase the number of smaller plantings which are beneficial to monarchs and other native pollinator species.

Selected Action Items

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)

The demonstration garden is located at the Crystal Lake Park District Nature Center, located at 330 N. Main Street.

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

The garden was funded by a donation from the Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers Rotary Club. The Dawnbreakers also volunteered to plant the garden.

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.

0.1

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.

IMG_1904.jpg

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

Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers Rotary Club

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

100

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u653:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The garden was coordinated and designed by the Crystal Lake Park District. In addition, signage was created and installed by the park district and on going garden maintenance (i.e. watering and weeding) has been completed in house.

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.

Sterne's Workday 5-22-22.JPG

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

200

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.

The Crystal Lake Park District has a robust natural area volunteer program with at least 7 workdays per month. These volunteers spend most of their time removing invasive species from two dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves. During 2022 calendar year more than 500 hours of volunteer labor has been provided in our invasive species control efforts in these two properties. While methods of control depend on species, a combination of physical (cutting or pulling) and chemical controls have been used.

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)

500

What was the date of your festival?

August 14, 2022

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u653:v1.14.0.49966]

Friends of Hackmatak National Wildlife Refuge

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 a one day event entitled Music and Monarchs. The event was held at Main Beach, a popular park visited by a diverse audience, and was free to all.

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)

2

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

The signs draw attention to the fact that the area is a "Pollinator Pocket" and contain a QR code to an informational page on the Crystal Lake Park District website. https://www.crystallakeparks.org/pollinator-gardens

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u653:v1.14.0.49966]