Village of Johnsburg

Johnsburg, IL

Village President Edwin Hettermann

Pledge Summary

The Village of Johnsburg is a beautiful, quaint, and thriving community that warmly welcomes all to the neighborhood; monarchs included, now for the fifth consecutive year. Located approximately seven miles from the Wisconsin border, Johnsburg offers convenient access to both Chicago and Milwaukee, making it highly desirable for those seeking a more rural lifestyle without sacrificing proximity to employment, shopping, dining, and essential services. There is truly something for everyone in our Village. From the scenic views along Pistakee Lake and well-maintained parks offering a variety of recreational opportunities, to relaxing afternoons spent with family and friends, Johnsburg is a place you'll be proud to call home. With a population of around 6,400 residents, our community fosters meaningful connections and the opportunity to build lasting friendships. As Johnsburg continues to grow both economically and recreationally, we remain committed to preserving our heritage, maintaining our connection to nature, and upholding our strong hometown values. Village President Edwin P. Hettermann and Trustee/Development & Government Affairs Chair Keith Von Allmen have reaffirmed their commitment to environmental stewardship by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge for the fifth consecutive year. This initiative supports efforts to protect monarch butterflies and other vital pollinators while encouraging residents to establish and maintain pollinator-friendly habitats throughout the Village. Additional environmentally conscious efforts include the adoption of "No Mow May," a growing initiative designed to support early-season pollinators and emerging insect populations by allowing natural lawn growth during the critical spring period.

Action Items Committed for 2026

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

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

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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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Edwin Hettermann	2026	3/23/2026	
Village President Edwin Hettermann	2025	2/19/2025	Signatories
Village President Edwin Hettermann	2024	2/20/2024	Leadership Circle
Village President Edwin Hettermann	2023	3/29/2023	Signatories
Village President Edwin Hettermann	2022	3/23/2022	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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

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

The Village of Johnsburg's motivation for participating in and continuing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is rooted in its commitment to environmental stewardship, pollinator conservation, and fostering a more sustainable community. The Village recognizes the important role monarch butterflies and other pollinators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and the need to protect and restore their natural habitats.

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?

The most helpful resources to the Village of Johnsburg have been the educational materials, native seed resources, and collaborative partnerships available through local organizations and entities throughout McHenry County. Moving forward, the Village would benefit from additional educational resources, native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seed supplies, grant funding, and technical guidance to support the expansion of pollinator habitats throughout the community. Resources that provide guidance on habitat planning, native plant selection, maintenance, and long-term sustainability would also help strengthen local conservation efforts.

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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

19

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.

Habitat was created and enhanced throughout the Village of Johnsburg in several publicly accessible and community-supported locations. These areas included Village-owned open spaces, public parks, rights-of-way, roadside areas, and local community gardens.

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

Two (2) developed residential communities have incorporated rain gardens and approved pollinator seed mixes into their landscape plans. These features provide opportunities to improve stormwater management, support native pollinators, and increase access to environmentally beneficial green spaces. The Village will continue to promote awareness of these initiatives and encourage participation from residents across all neighborhoods.

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.)

4

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

Additional support from state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and regional partners would be extremely valuable. In particular, the Village would benefit from greater access to dedicated funding opportunities, Illinois-based conservation grants, technical assistance, and guidance through the grant application and administration processes. Simplified application requirements, advance notice of funding opportunities, and grant programs specifically designed for smaller municipalities would help communities like Johnsburg participate more effectively.

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:

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February 17, 2026

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Final&Signed_Monarch Pledge.pdf

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 Johnsburg actively engaged with local community organizations, including the Library District, School District, Township, and community garden groups, to promote the planting of native milkweed and nectar-producing plants. Through these collaborative partnerships, the Village distributed educational materials and native seeds collected from local entities throughout McHenry County, encouraging residents and organizations to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into their gardens and landscapes. These efforts emphasized the environmental benefits of native plants, including providing essential food sources and habitat for monarch butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. By fostering education, resource sharing, and continued collaboration among local partners, the Village remains committed to supporting pollinator conservation and promoting sustainable, community-wide environmental stewardship.

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

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

20

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

McHenry County Environmental Defenders, the Library District, local Township resources, and the Remington Farmers Market.

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

22

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

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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)

1700 Block Sandalwood Ln, Johnsburg, IL 60051

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

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County

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.

2

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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.

1

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)

2

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

5000 Block of Pinehurst Cr, Johnsburg, IL 60051

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

Village of Johnsburg Parks & Facilities Lead & McHenry County Conservation District

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

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Remove invasive vegetation, inspect planting areas, perform limited cleanup, and prepare beds for spring growth. Reseed unsuccessful plantings, and inspect for milkweed growth. Monitor flowering plants, maintain watering during drought conditions, remove invasive species, and observe monarch and pollinator activity. Avoid unnecessary mowing or disturbance. Evaluate habitat performance, collect observations, identify areas needing additional planting, and allow native plants to produce seed where possible.

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.

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

The Village of Johnsburg has pursued a collaborative approach to monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation by engaging with local and regional organizations, including the McHenry County Environmental Defenders, the McHenry County Library District, local township representatives. These partnerships provide opportunities to increase public awareness, share educational resources, encourage community participation, and identify ways to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices into local landscaping and maintenance programs.

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

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

5

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

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The 100+ milkweed seeds were distributed throughout a designated planting area with suitable growing conditions, in sunny locations with limited competition from invasive vegetation. Seeds were planted in prepared soil following the recommended planting depth and seasonal requirements for the selected native milkweed species. The planting was intended to establish milkweed host plants that would provide monarch butterflies with suitable locations for laying eggs and support caterpillar development. Because the project used seeds rather than mature plants, establishment was expected to take additional time

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and required monitoring for germination, weed competition, moisture, and overall plant survival.

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

1

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