Village of New Lenox

New Lenox, IL

Mayor Timothy Baldermann

Pledge Summary

The Village of New Lenox is a city located in the south west suburbs of Chicago with a population of about 28,000. The Village is dedicated to the mission of environmental change, having been recognized as a “Tree City” for over 20 years running, amongst other program initiatives. Mayor Baldermann has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

- 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

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Timothy Baldermann	2022	3/28/2022	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

100

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 adults, 100 children

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.

Community Garden/public spaces. We will continue to expand this in 2023.

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

Every resident in our community, no matter their socioeconomic position, will have the same access to information and knowledge about how they are able to make a difference in helping to sustain the monarch population.

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

We realize that the monarch butterfly and other pollinator populations are at risk and want to do our part as a community to help them thrive.

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 resources provided have been extremely useful in regards to how we have decided to engage and pass along information to our residents.

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

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We will continue to provide residents with the knowledge and tools to create and maintain their own monarch habitats to aid in strengthening the population.

Selected Action Items

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).

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)

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

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:

4/24/2023

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

20230426101248.pdf

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

Milkweed - Ordinance.docx

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

We are partnering with the Village Board along with our Code Enforcement Officer to complete the removal of Milkweed from our "weed" ordinance.

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.

This change will be approved at our next Board Meeting on May 8th.

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.

Troop 124 Butterfly Garden.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)

This Garden is located in our Village Commons at 101 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox

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

Girl Scout Troop 124 planted and maintains this garden along with Village Staff.

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

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