Village of Wilmette

Wilmette, IL

Village President Senta Plunkett

Pledge Summary

The Village of Wilmette is located in the North Shore suburbs of the city of Chicago. Wilmette has a population of roughly 28,000. The Village is located along Lake Michigan and is home to extensive urban forests and a large tree canopy. President Plunkett of Wilmette, IL has committed to saving monarch butterflies, preserving native pollinators, and making progress on a variety of Village sustainability initiatives. Village Trustees and staff look forward to engaging residents in upkeeping and expanding our pollinator habitat throughout Wilmette.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Systems Change

- 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
Village President Senta Plunkett	2026	3/19/2026	
Village President Senta Plunkett	2025	1/30/2025	Leadership Circle
Village President Senta Plunkett	2024	3/26/2024	Signatories

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Village President Senta Plunkett	2023	3/23/2023	Signatories
Village President Senta Plunkett	2022	3/28/2022	Signatories

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.).

7000

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.)

The majority of those individuals would have been reached through the Villages e-news which is a weekly subscription and there is no way to determine the age of the individuals. Additionally, our village "communicator" is sent to every household in Wilmette, so that has the potential to reach over 20,000.

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.

0.20

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.

While .20 Acres have been ADDED, many other plants were replaced. Municipal Facilities (Public Works and Parks District Properties), Pollinator Garden in Right of Way.

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

In general, Wilmette is a rather affluent community with no defined lower-income areas. However, the Village is partnering with other communities sharing the I-94 corridor to install and maintain native habitats in the public rights-of-way.

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

The Village recognizes the importance of the Monarch butterfly and the significance of the decline of Monarch populations. The Village believes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food

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production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster health connections between humans and wildlife.

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?

Thus far, our local volunteers have been one of our best resources. Many are very knowledgeable, helpful, and dedicated.

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

Nothing!

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:

May 24, 2022

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

2022 Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

4.2 2022 Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day Memo.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).

The Village continually partakes in a "Leave the Leaves" campaign to encourage residents to avoid blowing or raking leaves from their flower beds. Additionally, the Village recently engaged in a gas-powered leaf blower working group to discuss and workshop ways to

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further prohibit gas-powered leaf blowers. The Village also installed pollinator gardens on public property as a demonstration of what individual residents could do, and we promoted these gardens in our printed spring and summer newsletter, which get mailed to every resident. We also promote native garden tips in our weekly newsletter during the appropriate times of year, as well as on social media. Our Environmental and Energy Commission is launching a native habitats education campaign this year, which will include a dedicated page on the village website. We intend to purchase yard signs for residents to call attention to their native habitat gardens and to create a layer in GIS of homes that have the yard signs. The GIS layer will assist with coordinating walking tours and knowing which areas of the Village we need to focus educational campaign efforts.

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)

1200 Wilmette Ave and Elmwood Ave. The installations are at the Village Hall and the Elmwood Dunes Preserve. The Elmwood Dunes Preserve is a unique and rare ecosystem on the Lake Michigan Shoreline. It provides vital habitat for a variety of plants and animals.

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

The original installation at the Village Hall was made possible in part by the Rotary Club of Wilmette Harbor. The original installation of the Elmwood Dunes Preserve was made possible by the Friends of Elmwood Dunes and the Rotary Club of Wilmette Harbor, along with several other private donations.

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.

.72

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

- Demonstration Gardens at the SE corner of Hibbard Rd and Glenview Rd - approx. 0.06 acres - Eden's Pollinator Garden at Lake & Laramie – approx. 0.46 acres - Skokie Blvd Medians – approx. 0.21 acres

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How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

275

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.73

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

- Demonstration Garden at the SE corner of Hibbard Rd & Glenview Rd – maintenance performed by an outside contractor 3 times per year (spring, summer, fall). - Edens Pollinator Garden at Lake & Laramie – maintenance performed by an outside contractor 3 times per year (spring, summer, fall). A prescribed burn will potentially be completed in the fall of 2023. - Skokie Blvd Medians – maintenance performed by an outside contractor on a weekly basis.

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?

Most of this progress was done in-house through plan creation.

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 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.

This plan was created in 2021. https://www.wilmette.com/download/Wilmette-Sustainability-Plan-9-28-14-VB-Meeting.pdf . It is not possible to link the Comprehensive Plan update because it is still in the development stages.

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

The Village's Sustainability Plan specifically calls out increasing the availability and implementation of native species, limiting fertilizer use, and to continue work on the Mayors Monarch Pledge as well as Wildlife Habitat Certification. The Village's Comprehensive Plan is currently going through an update and the preliminary draft of that plan states "Increase

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the percentage of properties using sustainable landscaping, planting native species, and installing rain gardens." and "Expand and enhance pollinator habitats." The Comprehensive Plan also states "Support implementation of the 2021 Adopted Sustainable Communities Strategic Plan" which, as previously mentioned, supports similar goals. The Comprehensive Plan is anticipated to be finished later this year.

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