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 2023

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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
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

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

8000

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 majoirty of individuals reached would have been through the Village's e-news, which is a weekly subscription e-mail. There is no way to determine the age of the individuals, although most are assumed to be adults. It is estimated that about 300 children and 150 adults were reached through the Environmental and Energy Commissions seed giveaway. Additionally, approximately 100 invididuals were reached through the Village's participation in Go Green Wilmette's "Sustainable Yard Tour" which was a tour of native landscapes in the Community.

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.

.02

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.

The only new installation was a garden on the Northwest side of Village at 1200 Wilmette Ave. However, many plants are continually maintained and/or reaplced at public works and park district properties.

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

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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?

Local volunteers have been the best resource thus far, many of whom are knoweldgeable, helpful, and dedicated.

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

In 2023, the Village contracted with Indigo Ecological Design to design the restoration of two prairie sites in the right-of-way at the intersection of Glenview and Long, scheduled for construction next year. The Village also supported a local Eagle Scout with the installation of a butterfly weed garden in the public right-of-way at the intersection of Iroquois & Pontiac. The Village provided guidance regarding the installation of the garden and shared the cost of the plants. The Eagle Scout plans to install some educational signage at a later date.

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 9, 2023

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

2023 Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Proclamation 2023.pdf

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.

Wicked_Wilmette_EEC3.png

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

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Wicked_Wilmette_EEC2.png

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

Wicked_Wilmette_EEC1.png

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

300

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

400

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

The Village of Wilmette Environmental and Energy Commission handed out native wildflower seeds at the Wilmette Park District's Halloween-themed Wicked Wilmette event on Saturday, October 21, 2023. The Environmental and Energy Commission had their own table at the event where they educated residents about native plants and handed out native wildflower seeds.

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

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

VH Before.JPG

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

VH During.JPG

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

VH Garden Design.jpg

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

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1200 Wilmette Ave. in downtown Wilmette, on the northwest side of Village Hall was the only property created this year. However, there are three other pollinator gardens throughout the Village that are regularly maintained.

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

178

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.

.02

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Public Works crews perform regular maintenance on this site as well as many of the sites around the Village.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

pollinator sign2.pdf

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

0

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

The Wilmette Environmental and Energy Commission (EEC) is currently in the process of developing native habitat yard signs for residential properties. The EEC is waiting to roll out the signs until 2024, due to the Village's website undergoing an update. The signs will include a QR code that links to additional native plant information and the website has to be complete for the signs to include the correct code. The EEC has had the signs designed and has created a criteria list for obtaining a sign. Upon completion of the new website, the EEC will have the signs printed and will make them available to residents.

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