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 2024

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.)
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Senta Plunkett	2026	3/19/2026	

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

18000

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.)

500

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.

.2

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.

A rain garden was added by the Park District to Shorewood Park. Additionally, the Village was supposed to add about 1.5 acres of polliantor habitat this year, but we did not recieve favorable bids on the project and therefore have to extend the installation to next year.

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

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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?

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?

The Village is committed to continually adding monarch butterfly habitat and native plants whenever possible. In our Park District's Sustainability Plan, adopted this year, one of the objectives states that at least 85% of all new plantings need to be native plants.

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 14, 2024

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

2024 Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation.docx

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.)

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

Sustainability_Communicator_2024.pdf

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Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

The Village of Wilmette releases a print newsletter three times a year that goes to all 10,000 households within the Village. This year, we released a special sustainability edition of the communicator. This edition focused on Village-sponsored programs, tips on how to integrate sustainable practices into residents' life, and information on what the Village is doing to be more sustainable. 3 pages of the 12 page newsletter highlighted the importance and benefit of native plants and educated residents on how to get started with planting them.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Local community non-profit Go Green Wilmette and Village Staff have reached out to the developer of the two primary shopping centers in the Village to ensure they are utilizing native plants and sustainable design and landscape operations. The developer indicated that they will be including native plantings in their plantings and will explore sustainable maintenance and groundskeeping practices.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

EEC_Yard_Sign.jpg

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

102

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

In 2024, the Village's Environmental and Energy Commission launced their pollinator habitat yard sign project, which provides Wilmette residents with free yard signs advertising their pollinator habitats to help educate other residents and highlight beneficial habitats in the community. The Commission is currently working to map the locations of these signs as well as the publically-accessible native habitats in the community.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed,

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where appropriate.

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

Village's Environmental and Energy Commission (EEC)

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.

N/a

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

The Environmental and Education Commission (EEC) has been working to help remove barriers to native plantings and find ways to increase and incentivize them. The EEC has provided recommendations to the Zoning Board for updating the Village's Zoning Code. Recommendations include minimum requirements for native plantings and verbiage changes for language like "neat and orderly" and "attracting nuisance wildlife". The Zoning Board has not addressed the EEC's recommendations yet due to other pressing matters, but anticipate discussing them further in the coming months.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Wilmette Park District, Village of Wilmette

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

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.

N/a

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

Both the Village and Park District's Sustainability Plans include objectives to limit pesticide use to only when absolutely necessary (removal of difficult invasive species). The Park District's plan was passed in 2024 and this objective had a target start date for quarter 3 of 2024. The Village's plan was passed in 2021 and staff continue to follow this policy.

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