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 2025

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- 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

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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.)

50

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.

Along roadsides as part of the Eden's Pollinator Corridor Project, in yards throughout the community, on Park District property in parks and along the lakefront.

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 continue to be our best resource, especially when it comes to additional maintenance requirements. Many of these volunteers in our community are dedicated and knowledgeable about native habitats.

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

None

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 27, 2025

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2025.pdf

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Go Green Wilmette, Chalet Nursery

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Go Green Wilmette, a local environmental nonprofit, hosts a sustainable yard tour each year. This tour features homes in the community that use sustainable landscaping

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practices and primarily plant native species. The Village has also worked with a local nursery, Chalet, to help focus on native plants. Chalet hosted a stakeholder open house which included local gardeners, Village staff, and community members to discuss how to advance native plantings in the community. Chalet also helps promote the Village's pollinator habitat yard signs to customers that request or utilize native plants. The Park District has also worked with Midwest Grows Green to better understand how to manage invasive species.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

7.jpg

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

26.JPG

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

3.jpg

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

4.jpg

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

Wilmette Environmental and Energy Commission

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

33

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

The Village's Environmental and Energy Commission hosted a pollinator photo contest in Summer 2025. There were two age categories (under 18 and over 18) and 33 total invidials

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submitted images. The winning images were displayed at the Wilmette Block Party and in Village Hall for a week following the contest's end. Additionally, winners were recognized at a Village Board meeting and recieved a gift card to local businesses. The top two photos from each age cateogory are attached.

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.

NativePlantPoster_2025-pdf.jpg

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

1500

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

150

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

Wilmette Park District, Go Green Wilmette

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.

Village_Hall_Image1.jpeg

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

Village_Hall_Image2.jpeg

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

Village_Hall_Image3.jpeg

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

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Village_Hall_Image4.jpeg

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

20230817_VillageHallExterior_005.jpg

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

20230905_VillageHallExterior_020.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)

1200 Wilmette Ave. - Wilmette Village Hall. The Village maintains nearly all native landscaping at Village Hall with signage displaying it's status as a pollinator habitat.

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

Village of Wilmette, Rotary Club of Wilmette for a portion of the landscaping.

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.

0.10

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)

Existing - Lake Ave and Laramie Ave; Glenview Road and Hibbard Road; Elmwood Dunes Preserve; Glenview Road and Long Road Currently being designed for 2026 - Glenview Road and Long Road; Glenview Road and Big Tree Lane. Learn more here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bfe70f91339a4e4d8f2d44873f7d75dd.

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

500

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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.

1.75

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintenance is primarily performed by an outside contractor quarterly, with more frequent maintenance performed when necessary.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Throughout the Village

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

The Park District has been working with Midwest Grows Green, an initiative from the IPM institute of North America, to explore potential ways of managing Lesser Celendine in the community. The Park District continually manages invasive species such as Lesser Celendine, Buckthorn, Reed Canary Grass, Honeysuckle, and many more. Additionally, the Village actively manages invasive species throughout Village plantings. Through the Village's tree ordinance, invasive trees are able to be removed without financial penalty or replacement, which is required for non-invasive, non-diseased species.

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_Yard_Sign.jpeg

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

130

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

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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 has continued this effort in 2025 and reordered 70 additional signs to hand out in 2026.

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