Village of Hawthorn Woods

Hawthorn Woods, IL

Mayor Dominick DiMaggio

Pledge Summary

The Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, located just 35 miles north of the City of Chicago with approximately 8,350 residents, is an upscale, friendly “rural by design” community. As a certified Bee City USA affiliate and an International Dark Sky Community, the Village is fiercely committed to protecting our natural resources, boasting twenty-three park sites and two pollinator habitats – Brierwoods Preserve and our newly dedicated Meadowlark Park and Arboretum. Mayor Dominick DiMaggio of the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, has committed to saving the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and looks forward to expanding pollinator environments throughout the community.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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 city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2026	2/4/2026	
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2025	12/2/2024	Signatories
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2024	12/4/2023	Signatories
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2023	12/6/2022	Signatories
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2022	3/25/2022	Signatories
Mayor Dominick DiMaggio	2021	1/21/2021	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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.

2.5

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

As a proclaimed Monarch Butterfly Way Station, the Village of Hawthorn Woods is dedicated to the survival of the Monarch butterfly.

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 Village of Hawthorn Woods Meadowlark Park and Arboretum consists of a 2.5-acre pollinator meadow, for which grant funding was received by the Canadian National Railway Company, America in Bloom, and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The park dedication ceremony took place in October of 2021. We received assistance with watering, planting, and weeding from the Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee and the Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods. We will continue to pursue potential grant opportunities and to expand our volunteer base in order to maintain, enhance, and expand our pollinator habitats.

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.).

8400

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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 Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, which consists of a 2.5-acre pollinator meadow is located at 188 Meadowlark Drive in the Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois.

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

The Village of Hawthorn Woods Brierwoods Preserve and Meadowlark Park and Arboretum are both public parks consisting of pollinator habitat, open year-round from sunrise to sunset and FREE to the public. re both public parks consisting of

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.)

1,116 youth and 7,284 adults

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

The Village of Hawthorn Woods created "pollinator pockets" within 22 of our 44 neighborhood cul-de-sac islands.

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 28, 2019

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

Hawthorn Woods to Become a Monarch Butterfly Way Station Community Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

VHW Monarch Butterfly Way Station Community Proclamation.pdf

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you

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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.

Meadowlark Park Sign.jpg

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

Meadowlark Walking Trail - July 2021.jpg

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

Meadowlark Park Pollinator Meadow - July 2021.jpg

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

The Village of Hawthorn Woods public outreach efforts include an electronic newsletter sent weekly to 4,963 residents and a hard copy newsletter sent to 8,400 residents quarterly.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

Ongoing park and habitat maintenance is conducted by our Parks Crew and Public Works Crew on a weekly basis. The watering of our pollinator seeds and plugs takes place with the use of our Village watering truck, when needed.

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

5.21.21 Rotary Club of Long Grove, Kildeer, Hawthorn Woods Donation with Masks.jpg

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

The Village of Hawthorn Woods is a small, but mighty community. We rely heavily upon local volunteer groups and organizations to maintain, enhance, and expand our parks and habitats, such as the Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Committee, Hawthorn Woods in

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Bloom Committee, Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods, Boy Scout Troop #92, and Girl Scout Troop #1409.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

43

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

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and the Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee

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

A total of 43 pollinator seed packets were distributed at the Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Dedication Ceremony on October 11, 2021.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Meadowlark Park Sign.jpg

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

Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Site Photo.jpg

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

Meadowlark Park - Early Stage 2.jpg

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

Meadowlark Walking Trail - July 2021.jpg

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

Meadowlark After Photo - August 2021.jpg

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

Meadowlark After Photo 2 - August 2021.jpg

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

Rotary of Long Grove, Kildeer, Hawthorn Woods Planting Pollinator Plugs 2 - May 23, 2021.jpg

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

Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Dedication E-Blast Announcement.PNG

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

Meadowlark Park and Arboretum Dedication E-Blast Announcement.PNG

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

2.5

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

188 Meadowlark Drive, Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

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

Funding and guidance were provided by the following organizations: Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)/Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD); Morton Arboretum; America in Bloom/Canadian National Railway; Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation; Chicago Regional Tree Initiative; and the Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods.

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

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The 3.5-acre turf grass lot conversion was completed on October 11, 2021, consisting of a 2.5-acre pollinator meadow, to create our Meadowlark Park and Arboretum. Ongoing park and habitat maintenance is conducted by our Parks Crew and Public Works Crew on a weekly basis. Planting, watering, and weeding efforts are also conducted by numerous, active volunteer groups.

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.

11.5

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.

Brierwoods Preserve was once an 11.5-acre thicket of overgrown vegetation. However, through the extensive clearing and planting efforts of our Village Parks Crew and a diverse group of dedicated volunteers, such as Aqua Illinois and Boy Scout Troop #92, Brierwoods Preserve is now a sustainable woodland and wetland pollinator habitat, open to the public and accessible to all mobilities. Our thorough and efficient invasive species removal is conducted by our Parks Crew and Public Works Crew, as well as our many volunteers under the guidance of our certified pesticide operators. The removal is manual, both in tools and labor.

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

Aqual Illinois Brierwoods Buckthorn Removal.jpg

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?

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Corps

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

Action is complete.

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

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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.

October 30, 2020

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

Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Plan.pdf

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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.

September 23, 2019

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

Municipal Lighting Ordinance 1965-19.pdf

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

International Dark-Sky Association

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

Action complete.

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