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 9,062 residents, is an upscale, friendly “rural by design” community. As a certified Bee City USA and Tree City USA affiliate, an Audubon International Sustainable Community, and an International Dark Sky Community, the Village is fiercely committed to protecting our natural resources, boasting twenty-four park sites and four pollinator habitats – Brierwoods Preserve, Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, Indian Creek Preserve, and the Hawthorn Heritage Outdoor Museum Trail. 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 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

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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.).

580

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.)

22 youth and 558 adults

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.

1.25

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.

Pollinator habitat was created within our new Indian Creek Preserve, totaling 1/2-acre. The dedication ceremony took place on August 9, 2023. Our new Leo and Naomi Burnett Memorial Garden, as part of our Hawthorn Heritage Outdoor Museum Trail located within Community Park, is a 1/4-acre pollinator habitat. The dedication ceremony will take place on April 13, 2024. Pollinator habitat was also implemented within our Heritage Oaks Park at each of the two park entrances and three linear municipal islands, totaling 1/2-acre.

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, Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, Indian Creek Preserve, Community Park, and Heritage Oaks are five public parks consisting of pollinator habitats, open year-round from sunrise to sunset, accessible to all mobilities.

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

As a proclaimed waystation for the Monarch Butterfly, the Village of Hawthorn Woods remains steadfast in our commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship.

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?

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The Village of Hawthorn Woods is proud to partner with the Illinois Monarch Project to educate, inform, and advocate for the further establishment of pollinator habitats in residential communities. As a new resource, the Village would welcome funding opportunities through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. A useful resource would be a central database of all non-profit organizations involved in Monarch preservation activities throughout the Chicagoland area.

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

Whenever a dedication ceremony for a park, preserve, or memorial garden takes place, the Village provides pollinator seed packets for all attendees to disperse throughout the dedication site. .

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:

January 23, 2023

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

Village of Hawthorn Woods Reaffirms Commitment as a Monarch Butterfly Way Station Community

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2023 Monarch Butterfly Way Station Community Signed Proclamation 1.23.23.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.

Arbor Day Tree Sapling and Pollinator Seed Packet Give-Away 5.6.23 (3).jpg

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

A total of 544 native pollinator seed packets were distributed for FREE during our Arbor Day Tree Sapling Giveaway on May 6, 2023..

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

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544

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

The Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Committee, Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee, and Save the Monarchs Group of Buffalo Grove assisted the Village in hosting this event at the Village of Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center parking lot. Local realtor Todd Klein and three Village trustees also volunteered for the event.

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

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

Teasel Tuesday at Meadowlark Park.jpg

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

A total of 3 acres of teasel was removed at our Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, along with 2 acres of buckthorn removal at Indian Creek Preserve and 1/2-acre or buckthorn removal at Brierwoods Preserve.

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.

All invasive buckthorn and teasel were painstakingly removed by hand, including all root systems. This extensive invasive removal was conducted by our Parks staff and numerous volunteer groups, such as: Friends of Indian Creek Wetlands; Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee; Stevenson High School Green Team; Fairmont Elementary School students and parents; and Digital GreenSigns, LLC employees.

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