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 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.

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.).

550

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.)

75

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.

.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.

A total of 50 rose bushes were planted throughout our municipal properties and parks. A total of 250 native pollinator seed packets were distributed for FREE during our Arbor Day Tree Sapling Giveaway on April 26, 2025.

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

Native pollinator seed planting, invasive buckthorn removal, and tree replacement takes place on a continuous basis from March to October each year throughout our 24-park system.

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?

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

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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?

Pollinator seed packets are provided, free of charge, to the many residents and visitors that attend our annual outdoor special events, such as: Concerts in the Park; Movies in the Park; Bark in the Park; and Party in the Park. The seed packets are distributed by our America in Bloom Committee, composed of resident volunteers.

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 27, 2025

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.

2025 Monarch Butterfly Way Station Community Signed Proclamation.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 Give-Away 4.26.2025.jpg

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

A total of 250 native pollinator seed packets were distributed for FREE during our Arbor Day Tree Sapling Giveaway on April 26, 2025. Planting instructions were also provided.

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

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250

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 and the Hawthorn Woods in Bloom Committee assisted the Village in hosting this event at the Village of Hawthorn Woods Aquatic Center parking lot. One Village trustee 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.

Meadowlark Teasel Remediation July 2025.jpg

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

Brierwoods Buckthorn Removal 5.12.2025.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 2.5 acres of teasel was removed from our pollinator meadow located within our Meadowlark Park and Arboretum, along with 1 acre of buckthorn removal at Brierwoods Preserve and 1/2-acre of buckthorn removal at Woodland Park.

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 teasel was painstakingly removed by hand, including all root systems, by our Parks Crew. This task is performed annually by our Parks Crew. The invasive, woody buckthorn was removed, in part, by hand by our Parks Crew. The buckthorn was also removed with the use of a skid steer with a brush hog attachment at Brierwoods Preserve and a Bobcat with a Fecon attachment at Woodland Park. The skid steer was provided by a local garden center, made possible through a funding opportunity provided by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum. The buckthorn stumps were then spot sprayed with an herbicide. The cutting back of new growth and spot spraying will continue each year by our Parks Crew.

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