Village of Bull Valley

Bull Valley, IL

Village President Emily Berendt

Pledge Summary

The Village of Bull Valley is a small village of 1128 residents, centrally located in McHenry County. A glacial topography, abundant hardwood trees along rural-style roads, and large open spaces with a country feel are characteristics of the Village and evidence of the Village's collective commitment to natural resource protection. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a perfect opportunity to expand that commitment to include native pollinators and the native plants they need to thrive.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President EMILY BERENDT	2025	2/17/2025	Signatories
Village President Emily Berendt	2024	2/14/2024	Signatories
Village President Emily Berendt	2023	1/12/2023	Signatories
Village President Emily Berendt	2022	3/31/2022	Signatories

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.).

500

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.)

undetermined

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.

5

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.

One is being created as part of a public park, the other is on private property. Both are roadside projects to remove invasives and replace with pollinator attractive species.

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 Bull Valley parks are open to all.

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

The Village is a community very conscious of the value of preserving and restoring our native environments. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a good fit.

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?

A step-by-step guide for people unfamiliar with gardening.

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

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The response from the Village residents has been very positive. We will have no shortage of projects for 2023.

Selected Action Items

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.

Year in Review 2021 Edited for Monarch Challenge .pdf

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

Dear Residents Monarch.pdf

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

A narrative of the Mayors Monarch Pledge commitment was included in the Village President's annual year-end report on April 1, 2022. This review is sent to over 350 email addresses representing approximately 80% of all households in the Village. In addition, the narrative will be included in New Resident Welcome Packets and on the Village Web Site. A shortened version of the annual report has been uploaded. In addition, the narrative will be included in New Resident Welcome Packets and on the Village Web Site. The Village sent a follow up email to the resident email list with an update and further appeal for residents to create their own Monarch Waystations or gardens. This communication generated seven immediate responses in the first few hours after posting, four of whom are interested in creating their own Monarch habitats either roadside or in their yards.

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.

Fenceline before clearing 1.JPG

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

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Fenceline before clearing 2.JPG

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

Fenceline AFter Clearing 1.JPG

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

Fenceline After Clearing 2.jpg

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

Removal of Mulberry tree.JPG

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

Removal of brush.jpg

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

Approximately 5.0 acres

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 Village pledged to remove invasives from two roadside locations and replace them with monarch habitat areas. The first area was a previously restored site of 4.5 acres that had become a monoculture of Black Eyed Susans and lost its diversity. Thistle, Burdock and other invasives were choking out whatever was left. Two resident volunteers took on this project. The roadside fence line on the eastern boundary had become an overgrown border of woody invasive shrubs and trees with old wire fence supporting it. The trees shrubs and fence on this roadside boundary were completely removed. By matching grants from Trees Forever and the Sierra Club, the Village was able to contract with a local nursery to herbicide throughout the rest of the season. Although delayed by the current supply chain issues, pollinator seed has been delivered and will be applied to create new growth next spring. Herbiciding will continue over the next few years and as needed once the native cover is established. The second area was on private property. The landowner, neighbor volunteers and the Village worked together to remove invasive brush and several large non-native trees that were overhanging the road. This approximately half acre will be replanted with monarch friendly natives in the spring.

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

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

Post Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.pdf

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

We relied on resource information from the International Dark Sky at Night organization.

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

Completed.

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.

Adopted May 23, 2022

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