Hastings-on-Hudson

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

Mayor Nicola Armacost

Pledge Summary

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is located in New York State, about 20 miles north of midtown Manhattan, and has a population of about 8,500. It is situated on the banks of the Hudson River and boasts exceptional views of the dramatic geological bluffs known as the Palisades. It has a charming, bucolic character, over 89% of its open space is dedicated parkland and it has a significant trail network. It also has active pollinator pathway and “Adopt-a- Spot” programs that engage and educate residents about the importance of biodiversity, native plants and pollinators. The Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson, Nicola Armacost, has committed to protecting the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and encourages residents to continue building pollinator habitat throughout the municipality.

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.
- 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Thomas Drake	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor Nicola Armacost	2025	4/30/2025	Monarch Champions
Mayor Nicola Armacost	2024	2/10/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nicola Armacost	2023	1/26/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nicola Armacost	2022	4/6/2022	Leadership Circle

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.).

8500

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.)

2000 youth and 6500 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.

2.1

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.

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Residences, rights-of-way, roadsides, medians, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

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

We are creating community gardens in central locations where they can be accessed by all members of the community, including low-income communities and communities of color.

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

The health of humans and pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, are interdependent. Pollinators provide us with food and other items we depend on, they provide food and habitats for other animals and they are responsible for helping 90% of the world's flowering plants reproduce. Without pollinators, ecosystems are less resilient due to biodiversity losses, increases in invasive species, and reductions in crops and natural vegetation. The Mayors' Monarch Pledge encourages municipalities to take practical actions that make a difference and to help spread the word to residents.

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?

It has been helpful to learn what other communities are doing (peer-learning) including reviewing template resolutions.

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

Hastings-on-Hudson adopted a resolution in support of the New York's Birds and Bees Protection Act (A7429/S699B) banning neonic pesticides. In 2022, although the Act was adopted by both the Assembly and the House, it was not sent to the Governor for signature. In 2023, we have continued to advocate for this important legislation.

Selected Action Items

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?

The Board of Trustees, the Conservation Commission, the Climate Smart Communities Task Force, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Comprehensive Plan/LWRP Committee and the Green Building Code Committee

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

In progress

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

The Village is in the process of updating its Green Building Code (which recommends the use of native plants) and its Comprehensive Plan. The Village is also in the process of drafting a Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan. Preservation of pollinator habitat will be noted in each of those documents.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed and other native plant seeds

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

The Hastings Pollinator Pathway and the Village Conservation Commission

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

The Hastings Pollinator Pathway maintains a permanent free seed exchange located at the Hastings Public Library that includes milkweed. Members of the HPP collect the milkweed seeds and offer them at no cost to other village residents through the exchange. For more on the seed exchange, see here: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/seed-exchange.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

HoH Conversion of Vacant Lots final.docx

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

The vacant lot which was converted into a monarch habitat is located at "Five Corners" in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, where Chauncey Lane and Broadway intersect, adjacent to the Old Croton Aqueduct trail. The garden is composed almost exclusively of native plants: 7 new native trees have been planted that serve as host plants to over 500 species of native butterflies, moths, and birds, as well as over 1,550 plants of grasses, shrubs, and nectar-producing perennials - including 30 Asclepias incarnata and Asclepias tuberosa milkweed plants. The newly created pollinator garden is approximately 1,750 square feet (.04 acre) (see: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/adopt-a-spot/5- corners-spot).

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

The Hastings Pollinator Pathways (HPP) Project and the Hastings Beautification Committee.

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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.

.04

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

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

The process of converting the lot began with planning in February 2021. Planting occurred in the spring and summer of 2021 and 2022. Maintenance is ongoing in 2023.

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:

2 May 2023

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

HoH Monarch Butterfly Proclamation 2023

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

49-23 HoH Monarch Butterfly Proclamation 2023.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

The Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) Project, a group of local volunteers interested in preserving the habitat of pollinators, has established and maintains several community gardens that are composed of almost exclusively native plants including multiple types of milkweed (see: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org). In addition, the Hastings-on-Hudson Beautification Committee maintains at least eight sites around the Village, and with encouragement from HPP, has begun to focus on planting native plants.

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

The Conservation Commission, the Hastings Pollinator Pathway Project, the Beautification Committee, the Board of Trustees, the Village Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department.

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

In 2021, the Village revised the landscaping service contract to include the following: 1. Delay spring clean up until April to allow more time for emergence of over-wintering pollinators 2. In fall, leave leaves in flower beds in place 3” to 6” deep through the winter. 3. In fall, leave perennial plants and ornamental grasses standing through the winter. Cut back as new growth emerges in April. 4. Mulch mow leaves into lawn areas. 5. Avoid disturbing Adopt-a- Spot pollinator gardens established and maintained by Village residents. 6. No pesticides are to be used as part of any regular maintenance program.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

HoH Community Associations and Neighborhood Organizations.docx

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

The Zinsser Way Residents, Girl Scout Troops 1708, 1811 and 2492.

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

These groups have adopted “Spots” and planted pollinator friendly gardens. The residents of Zinsser Way adopted a small communal space on a traffic island in a cul de sac off Edgars Lane. Formerly a tangle of weeds, residents have created a garden that now supports wildlife year-round, including milkweed. In 2022, Girl Scout Troop 1701 adopted a triangle of vacant village land where Merrill, Hamilton and Rosedale meet. In May 2021 the troop cleared the land and in July 2021 they used American Meadows Monarch Butterfly Seed Mix to start their garden. In July 2022, they added some Blackeyed Susans, and the garden is already providing food for butterflies and other pollinators. This troop has renewed their spot for 2023 and 2024 and a new group of girls will take it over. On Earth Day, 2023, Girl Scout Troop 1695 adopted part of Riverview Park where they planted a variety of native plants, mulched shrubs, added rock borders and did a clean-up. Riverview Park is a community park on Warburton Avenue between Nodine Street and Pinecrest Drive. Girl Scout Troop 2942 has dedicated itself to helping maintain a newly-installed native planting by Revolutionary Hastings, a community group that renovated an historic parklet in 2021.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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The Village encouraged developers that are proposing the construction of a new film studio in the Village to plant native species suitable for monarch habitat. The developers have indicated that should the project come to fruition they will comply (see pg. 38: https://www.hastingsgov.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif7561/f/uploads/2023.09.14_eos_eaf_part_3_report.pdf and https://www.hastingsgov.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif7561/f/uploads/appendix_j-_wildlife.pdf). Local Architect Christina Griffin designed a fully passive house with a wildflower meadow adjacent, which she includes in tours that she offers the community to promote sustainability in suburban living (supporting in organizing the tours is provided by the Village Parks & Rec and Conservation Commissions).

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.

HoH Library Seed Exchange.png

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

HoH Pop up Seed Exchanges.png

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

More than 500 seeds have been given away. As background, starting in 2020, the Hastings Pollinator Pathway has hosted several popup Seed Swaps that include native plant seeds. A permanent free Seed Exchange was launched at the Hastings Public Library on June 11th, 2022. Residents are invited to bring any seeds they want to donate in labeled envelopes and they are asked to place them in the Hastings Public Library seed drop box. The box is located inside the library and is accessible during library hours. Seeds in the Exchange are reviewed and packaged by the HPP team and replenished seasonally. The Library seed exchange will always have native plants and milkweed available. For more on the seed exchange, see here: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/seed-exchange. The Village also hosts an annual Spring Thing! (street fair) at which the HPP and Conservation Commission promote the care of our ecosystem through native plants and stewardship. For the past two years the event featured a seed swap and a booth dedicated to monarchs run by a young enthusiast. Local “green” landscapers and landscape architects and the Clean Air Coalition (which lobbies for not using leaf blowers) were in attendance at this event.

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

300

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

The Village Conservation Commission, the Hastings Pollinator Pathway Project, the Board of Trustees, the Village Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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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)

The Village has established and maintains a pollinator-friendly demonstration community garden that is composed almost exclusively of native plants including multiple types of milkweed, located at the 5 Corners gateway to the Village at Chauncey Lane and Broadway, adjacent to the Old Croton Aqueduct trail. The garden is approximately 1,750 square feet (.04 acres). The Vine Squad installed a public pollinator garden in the Village's commuter (train station) parking lot, which also hosts the Hastings Farmers' Market on Saturdays (a culturally important and frequently trafficked area).

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

The Hastings Pollinator Pathways and the Hastings Beautification Committee.

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.

0.04

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

Adopt a Spot Spring Street Median near Village Hall.jpg

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

Adopt a Spot Spring Street Tree Pit.png

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and the Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) Project developed Project developed an Adopt-a-Spot program which requires that 50% of plants in The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and the Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) new gardens be native plants, be pesticide-free, and no invasives can be planted. Currently there are 27 adopted spots, which together account for approximately half an acre of habitat, and each spot has an Adopt-a-Spot placard which reminds residents about the importance of championing pollinators and the contributions that ordinary citizens can make. Through the Adopt-a-Spot program, several medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way have been adopted and planted with pollinator habitat. One local family established and maintains a native plant garden in a large traffic island directly across from Village Hall and the Hastings-on-Hudson MetroNorth train station on Southside Avenue at Spring Street. Another family maintains a spot in a tree pit close by. There are three other traffic circles adopted in the Village (Rosedale-Hamilton-Merrill; Hillside Ave & Rosedale and

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Farragut Avenue and Green Street), nine pollinator plots along the South County Trailway near the Saw Mill River Parkway, a pollinator plot along Warburton Avenue near Riverside Park, and more.

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

400

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.

Approximately 1,096 square feet (.03 acre).

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintenance is ongoing and the responsibility of each adopter. Detailed maintenance requirements are included in adoption papers. Spots are reviewed annually by HPP members to ensure they are well maintained.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Hillside Traffic Circle Project.docx

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

As part of the Mayor's Climate Youth Council (CYC), two high school students opted to plant a pollinator garden on vacant public land as part of the Village's Adopt-a-Spot initiative. Their idea was to transform abandoned municipal-owned land into a beautiful demonstration pollinator garden. They chose a prominent location near the school so that the garden would be visible to students and parents, with the hope that it would inspire replication. The girls identified a location at the traffic circle at Hillside and Rosedale Ave. They sought advice from Hastings Pollinator Pathway volunteers, approached the Village to secure permits, cleared the site, prepared the soil and selected native species to plant. Their project will increase native biodiversity for pollinators when the flowers they plant bloom next spring, and they have already piqued interest among classmates and residents about creating more gardens like theirs. For more information and to track progress see here: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/adopt-a-spot/hillside-avenue-traffic-circle.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

4

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Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Hastings High School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

Hastings Pollinator Pathways (HPP) Project website

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

10

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

The Mayor's Climate Youth Council, Hastings High School, Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) and the Hastings Conservation Commission (the Mayor's Climate Youth Council and Hastings High School are new partners).

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

0.03

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Maintenance is ongoing

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.

June Pollinator Month Proclamation 2023.pdf

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

Hastings Pollinator Pathway Project - National Pollinator Month.pdf

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

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The Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) Project provides information and advice to Hastings-on-Hudson residents about biodiversity, and planting for pollinators including information on milkweed and monarchs. The HPP communicates to the public through its website (www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org), monthly newsletter (https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/home/newsletter-archive), public events, Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/hastingspollinatorpathway), Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/hastingspollinatorpathway/channel), flyers, and regular coverage in the Rivertowns Enterprise, the local newspaper (see: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/regional-programs-news). In June each year, the HPP launches a pollinator awareness drive to celebrate National Pollinators Month. In 2023, the HPP worked with a graphic designer to create National Pollinator Week Awareness signage and petitioned local businesses to display them in their windows. 26 more local businesses participated (see https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/participate/national-pollinator-month for more information).

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

0

What was the date of your festival?

Postponed till 2024

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

N/A

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

The event will take place in 2024.

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.

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

2023 Snapshot of HoH Pollinator Gardens.png

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

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The municipality has many groups and individuals who serve as local “gardening leaders” including the Village Naturalist, the Hastings Vine Squad, the Village Conservation Commission, the Village Beautification Committee and the Hastings Pollinator Pathway Project as well as individuals who cultivate their own pollinator gardens at home. The Hastings Pollinator Pathway (HPP) developed an Adopt-a-Spot program in coordination with the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson in 2020. Guidelines require that 50% of plants in new gardens be native plants, they be pesticide-free, and no invasives can be planted. Currently there are 32 adopted spots, which together account for approximately half an acre of habitat, and, with each spot sporting an Adopt-a-Spot placard, they provide a visible reminder about the importance of supporting pollinators to all who encounter these public spaces. In addition, the HPP engages with the Xerces Society, the Garden Club of Irvington, Westchester Pollinators, Healthy Yards Bedford and the Homegrown National Park network.

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

Hastings-on-Hudson Gardening Leaders include: 1. Haven Colgate, who is the current Village Naturalist, the Chair of the Village Conservation Commission, a co-founder of the Hastings Vine Squad and a founding member of the Hastings Pollinator Pathway Project. Haven has been leading efforts to remove invasive vines since 2012 and more recently spearheads the Hillside Woods restoration initiative which includes both removal of invasives and replanting of native trees and shrubs in the woods. She has led two Trees for Tribs projects that focus on planting native trees, shrubs and perennials including milkweed in riparian areas.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Adopt-a-Spot Plaques .png

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

HPP Medallion.png

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

No Mow May Lawn Signs.png

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

32

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

There are 32 HPP medallion signs and Adopt-a-Spot Plaques that are displayed at each adopt-a-spot location – they include the Pollinator Pathway website which provides rich information about pollinator habitat. Residents can also purchase medallions for their home properties; approximately

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32 have been purchased and displayed around the Village. In addition, No Mow May signs are available for residents who choose to engage in that practice; approximately 21 have been sold. See here for information about how residents can purchase this material: https://www.hastingspollinatorpathway.org/participate/hpp-swag

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.

HoH Vine Squad.docx

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

Invasive plants have been removed on approximately 50 acres throughout Hastings-on- Hudson. Some removal projects focus on removing vines (such as porcelain berry and Asiatic bittersweet), while others focus on shrubs (such as privet or Japanese barberry bushes); some are routine invasive removals only and other projects involve replantings.

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 Hastings Vine Squad has been active annually since 2012 removing invasive vines from area trees. Typically the vine removal season runs every winter from November to March for about 12 weeks, and scores of volunteers are engaged in intensive 2-hr lopping sessions. The Vine Squad lops vines at the ground, and at 4' or higher above the ground, and then returns the next season to cut back regrowth. Vines commonly targeted include porcelain berry, asiatic bittersweet and wisteria, five-leaf akebia, mile-a-minute and English ivy. The Vine Squad has worked on at least 25 acres of public space (most of which have been revisited several times over the years). Examples of vine removal and restoration efforts include the following: 1. The Hillside Woods Restoration Project, which is an ongoing, multi-year effort to restore habitat to our severely degraded hundred acre woods. Volunteers have removed hundreds of privet shrubs, over 450 Japanese barberry bushes and many invasive vines, with tree work on Norway maples, ailanthus trees and others via a contractor. To date, over 500 native tree and shrub seedlings have been planted across several acres. Approximate planted area is 15,000 square feet, with intensive invasive species removal in at least half an acre of distributed land. This project has received county and state funding and will include deer fencing. 2. Boutillier's Brook Riparian Restoration Project, an ongoing collaboration with NYS DEC's Trees for Tribs program, which has resulted in the removal of various invasives including Japanese knotweed, porcelain berry and other exotic vegetation along a local stream. In addition to vine removal, the project resulted in approximately one acre of native trees and shrubs being planted along a stream in the cleared areas. Volunteers cut back the knotweed, porcelain berry and other invasive plants on an ongoing basis. Groundwork Hudson Valley's Green Team, a task force of teens involved in restoration work, have volunteered to keep the invasives at bay while the plantings are established. 3. The South County Trailway's (SCT) restoration work, headed by local resident Steve Pucillo, is a volunteer-led effort to improve habitat and human infrastructure on the "Old Put" railway-turned-trailway. This paved trail runs from Yonkers to Croton and beyond, with about 1.5 miles running through Hastings-on-Hudson. Heavily trafficked, it is used by runners, walkers, rollerbladers and bicyclists. Steve has led numerous volunteers and also partnered with Groundwork Hudson Valley to remove invasive species along the length of the SCT Hastings – about 22 acres – with some additional work in neighboring jurisdictions. Steve and his volunteers

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have established five butterfly gardens along the Hastings stretch, which are labeled as such to inform the many passersby about the initiative. 4. The Burke Estate Wetlands Restoration Project is a citizen-led effort to restore habitat to Hastings-on-Hudson's largest wetland, a neglected, spring-fed marsh full of phragmites and porcelain berry. The area is owned by the local school district, and the project engages high school students and their teachers. To date, over 3,000 square feet of phragmites has been cut back, and native trees and plants have been established in their stead in an area of approximately 2,000 square feet. NYS DEC has donated tree protection for 100 of the over 300 stems planted.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

HoH Community Gardens.docx

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

Hastings Vine Squad

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

A vacant lot in the Northeast Corner of the Zinsser Commuter Lot at 131 Southside Avenue in Hastings-on-Hudson, was adopted by the Hastings Vine Squad in 2021 and turned into a community garden. The area was overgrown with porcelain berry vine and the goal of the Vine Squad was to cut back the vines that were imperiling the trees to the south of the lot and replace them with pollinator-friendly nectar-producing plants. In January 2021, viney roots were extracted and the site was cleared, and in April, a carpet of the lesser celandine was removed. The Vine Squad planted some DEC donated seedlings: native witch hazel, dogwood and ninebark shrubs, tubing the witch hazel and dogwood from deer, and added some native flowers, from violets to mountain mint. Volunteers watered the garden in the intense summer heat and created a charming community garden. On Earth Day, 2022, the Vine Squad partnered with the Children's Librarian at the Hastings Public Library and ran an educational gardening session with local kids.

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