

Village of Ardsley

Ardsley, NY

Mayor Nancy Kaboolian

Pledge Summary

The Village of Ardsley is located in Westchester County, New York and has a population of over 5,000 residents. The Village is committed to and already taken many actions to help the monarch butterfly including increasing public awareness of the issue and encouraging residents to build gardens for monarchs. The Village has launched the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Project to help save endangered pollinators. The Village is aware of the importance of saving monarchs and other pollinators, and believes that encouraging the expansion of native plantings will not only benefit monarchs but all native species, as well as providing natural and beautiful spaces for Village residents.

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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Edelstein	2026	12/2/2025	
Mayor Nancy Kaboolian	2025	12/2/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nancy Kaboolian	2024	12/1/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nancy Kaboolian	2023	12/13/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nancy Kaboolian	2022	4/11/2022	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 (e.g., 50).

750

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.” (Only allow numerical values.)

100 youth and 650 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).

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

Yards, new public pollinator gardens, existing public gardens

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

Offering free native plants/seeds, free in-depth garden consultations to create native habitat to support pollinators and birds, offering free educational programs.

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

Ardsey is committed to supporting the monarch butterfly, as well as other pollinators, and engaging residents and youth. We strongly believe that coordinated small actions have a significant overall effect.

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?

We find that many homeowners have little actionable knowledge about the plight of the monarch butterfly, pollinators, and birds. Additionally, most homeowners use 'landscape services' and have little awareness or input into how the landscaper manages their property. Material that provides simple actions, solutions, and information is most helpful to us to persuade people to take an easy first step in their yards. Identifying and managing invasives is also critical and there is a significant knowledge gap in this area. Finally, creating public pollinator gardens provides a wonderful way for people to engage in nature and see pollinators in action.

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

Our programs to provide free milkweed seeds and seedlings to homeowners has been very successful.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

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

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

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (e.g., 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

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

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

[Going Wild in Westchester-One Yard at a Time cover slide.pdf](#)

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

[The Passionate Why of Pollinator Gardens - Flyer.pdf](#)

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

Through the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and the Ardsley Garden Club more milkweeds and native nectar plants were added to the pollinator gardens located at the Ardsley Public Library, the Anthony F. Veteran Park and the Hart's Brook Park and Preserve. The Chair of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway presented to the Pleasantville Garden Club in October 2023 on how to create a pollinator pathway to win hearts and minds and make change one yard at a time. The Chair of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway was also the keynote speaker at the kick-off of the Dobbs Ferry Pollinator Pathway and spoke about the passionate 'why' of pollinator gardens.

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.

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

The Rivertowns Pollinator Pathways (Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown, Hastings-on-Hudson); The Ardsley Garden Club The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway chairs the Westchester County/Connecticut Native Plant/Ecotypes group, bringing leaders in the conservation, land preservation, and restoration movement together monthly to form partnerships to collect, grow and provide (for free or at low cost) local ecotypes (when possible) native plants for public pollinator gardens and ecological restoration projects. These efforts support monarch butterflies, other pollinators, birds, insects and wildlife. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, teaming with the Tarrytown Pollinator Pathway, partnered with Paul Feiner, Town of Greenburgh Supervisor, to support pollinators in the Town of Greenburgh, of which Ardsley is a member. The Chair of the Pollinator Pathway was a guest on Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner's radio program on August 4, 2023 to discuss the need for pollinator gardens, including for support of monarch butterflies. The monarch and milkweeds was used as a prime example of the relationship that must be maintained between host plants and butterflies/moths and the importance of native host and nectar plants.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway has partnered with other Rivertowns pollinator pathways on sharing information, programs, and resources to support pollinators, including monarchs, and to plant native plants. Ardsley has provided them with the monarch mailbox garden guide to provide to their members. The Westchester County/Connecticut Native Plant/Ecotypes group, works to coordinate efforts on invasive plant issues, deer

management/lobbying, sharing resources to make native plants available and accessible to county residents, and to work on ways to communicate the urgency of planting native plants for all pollinators and birds, including monarchs.. These efforts support monarch butterflies, other pollinators, birds, insects and wildlife. Assistance with installing public pollinator gardens was provided to the Tarrytown Pollinator Pathway in spring of 2023. Ardsley has built a strong relationship with the Town of Greenburgh to publicize and support public pollinator demonstration gardens and promote pollinator gardens for homeowners.

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:

10/2/23

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

PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING NOVEMBER AS “MONARCH BUTTERFLY MONTH” IN THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[10.2.23 November Monarch Month 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 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.

[Cross Pollination News January 2023-1.pdf](#)

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

[Cross Pollination News September 2023-1.pdf](#)

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

[Cross Pollination News February 2023 \(1\)-1.pdf](#)

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

[Full to Part Sun Monarch Mailbox Gardens Step-by-Step.pdf](#)

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

[18-003_02_Monarch-Nectar-Plant-Lists-FS_web - Jessa Kay Cruz.pdf](#)

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

[Copy of Milkweed foster parent guide.pdf](#)

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

[Cross Pollination News November 2023 \(1\).pdf](#)

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

We continue to promote educational and free material to homeowners on how to create a monarch (and pollinator) garden. This includes educational blurbs in our monthly newsletters, a how-to step-by-step guide for anyone to create a monarch support garden, a milkweed adoption program that includes how to be a 'milkweed plant parent/foster parent'. Our October Newsletter covered the NYS Bird and Bees Protection Act and also provided information on building monarch waystations in neighborhoods (newsletters exceeded the 5 MB limit for attachments). The November 2023 newsletter was devoted to the monarch butterfly and how homeowners can support them in their yards.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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

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

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

[monarch_butterfly_worksheet-1.pdf](#)

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

Groups involved were the Ardsley Scouts, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, and the Ardsley Garden Club, as well as the mayor and trustee liaisons to the participating organizations.

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (e.g., 50).

60

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Ardsley sponsored a monarch butterfly art project and as part of that project we educated kids (ages 4 - 12) on the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, its host plant, and nectar plants. The kids (and some adults too) created butterfly paintings and then pasted them onto a wall to create a community mural celebrating the monarch butterfly.

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.

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

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

[IMG_0438\(1\).JPG](#)

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

[Plant Pre-Order plant descriptions.pdf](#)

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

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

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

[2022-12-08 07.37.09.jpg](#)

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

[Poster for Event.pdf](#)

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?

We held a native seed swap in December, a plant swap in June and a native plant plug sale March in March. Over seven hundred plugs were sold in the native plant sale, over 100 plants were swapped, 75 milkweed seedlings were given away for free, and tens of thousands of seeds, including those of multiple milkweed varieties, were given away for free at the seed swap.

How many people attended your event?

100

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway sponsored the seed swap, plant swap, and the native plant plug sale. The Ardsley Garden Club sold nectar producing annuals.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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

[IMG_0515\[1\].JPG](#)

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

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How many people attended your event?

100

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Showy Milkweed, Poke Milkweed, Whorled Milkweed

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Westchester Healthy Yards/Westchester Pollinators (provided seed at the seed swap), the Ardsley Public Library

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

Milkweed seeds were collected from private and public pollinator gardens and made available to the public at the December seed swap event. Additionally 75 pots were seeded with the milkweeds and a 'foster' program was launched to germinate the plants over the winter. In the spring milkweed seedlings that were germinated by the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway were made available for free to residents at the Spring Gardening and Butterfly Festival as well as the June plant swap. In late December 2022 the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway partnered with the Ardsley Library to create a program, Seed to Plant, that showed kids how to plant seeds and nurture them over the winter. The kids seeded a pot with milkweed seeds of their choice to germinate over the winter and plant in early summer in their gardens.

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

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

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

[2023-07-12 09.23.44.jpg](#)

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

[2023-07-12 09.24.09.jpg](#)

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

[2023-07-12 09.24.46.jpg](#)

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)

There are three public pollinator demonstration gardens: The Ardsley Public Library, The Anthony F. Veteran Park and the Hart's Brook Park and Preserve.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, the Ardsley Garden Club, The Ardsley Public Library, the Ardsley Scouts, the Town of Greenburgh Supervisor and Parks and Recreation Department, the Tarrytown Pollinator Pathway.

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.

.1

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.

[CRS Building Gardens-Final.pdf](#)

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

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)

The Ardsley Concord Road Elementary School Pollinator Garden and the Ardsley High School Pollinator Garden.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"?

3

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

Ardsley High School and Ardsley Concord Road Elementary School. Both were new partnerships.

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

Discussion about the importance of pollinator plants with the students, garden designs, plant list with information on what pollinators each plant supports, recommendations for ways to purchase the plants.

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).

32

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

The teachers leading the environmental clubs at their schools and the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway

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.

.001

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

The students will maintain the gardens.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

The Ardsley Village Board, the Ardsley DPW, the Ardsley Village Management, The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, The Ardsley Garden Club, The Ardsley Scouts

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

The Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA

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.

[Greenburgh Pollinator Garden Expansion Proposal.pdf](#)

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

Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Ardsley Garden Club, Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon

How many plants were planted?

600

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year we greatly expanded our three public pollinator demonstration gardens (two in the Town of Greenburgh and one in Ardsley) and made sure to add plenty of butterfly milkweed, swamp milkweed and other milkweed, as well as some of the monarch butterflies' favorite nectar plants.

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.

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

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What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants?

.25

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 Ardsley Mayor and an Ardsley Trustee partnered with the Westchester Parks Foundation to hold a vine cutting event in December, 2022 at Westchester County owned Macy Park in Ardsley. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway partnered with the Westchester Parks Foundation and Groundwork Hudson Valley to hold a vine cutting/invasive plant removal event along the South County Trailway in March, 2023.

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.

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

[Copy of ADOPT A FREE MILKWEED SEEDLING.docx](#)

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

[Copy of Milkweed foster parent guide-1.pdf](#)

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

[Copy of Milkweeds for Ardsley - 2023.docx](#)

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

[QR Codes for Plant Sale.docx](#)

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

[ARDSLEY GARDENING FESTIVAL-3.pdf](#)

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

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

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

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

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

150

What was the date of your festival?

March 12, 2023

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

The Village of Ardsley Mayor, Trustee Liaison to the sponsoring organizations, Ardsley Parks and Recreation, the Ardsley Garden Club, the Ardsley Scouts, Westchester Pollinators/Healthy Yards.

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 Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and Ardsley Garden Club partnered to sponsor the first Ardsley Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival. This event brought the community together to learn how to create pollinator gardens, support monarch butterflies, and purchase native plant plugs (with monarch key plants identified). We had 'monarch ambassadors', two incredible high school students, who womaned a table offering information on how homeowners could support monarch butterflies as well as offered free milkweed seedlings

(common, butterfly, swamp and showy) to milkweed 'parents'. Sponsoring organization representatives dressed as monarch butterflies or bees to set the festive pollinator tone for the event. Milkweed seeds were also given away along with instructions on how to cold stratify them before spring planting.