

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 ~5,000 residents. The Village is committed to and has 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. Ardsley earned the Leadership Circle Achievement for the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors Monarch Pledge in 2022 and 2023. The Village is proud to support our beloved monarch butterflies.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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 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.

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.
- 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).

- 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).
- 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.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- 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
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).

1500

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.)

50

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).

.01

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.

Public pollinator gardens: Ardsley Public Library in Ardsley, AFV and Hart's Brook Parks in the Town of Greenburgh. Through outreach and communication efforts more residents are incorporating native plants and milkweed in their yards. We are also adding milkweeds and monarch favorite nectar plants to existing public gardens in Ardsley.

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, and offering free educational programs.

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

We are committed to supporting pollinators and birds through promoting sound landscaping practices and educating the public on the benefits of native plants. Ardsley is focused on supporting the monarch butterfly and engaging residents and youth. We strongly believe that coordinated small actions have a significant overall effect. By focusing on the monarch we are promoting practices that help all pollinators.

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 'landscaping services' and have little awareness or input into how their 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 program to provide free milkweed seeds and seedlings to homeowners has been very successful, as has been our effort to make native plant plugs available at reasonable prices through our native plant plug sale. One of the challenges is sourcing neonic free plants. People are more apt to give native plants a try if bring the plants to them via native plant sales and native plant giveaways.

Selected Action Items

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).

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)

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

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

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

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).

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

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.

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

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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:

10-07-2024

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.

[10.7.24 November Monarch Month Proclamation.pdf](#)

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.

[How You can save the Monarch Butterfly-in your yard cover slide.pptx](#)

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 (AFV) Park and the Hart's Brook Park and Preserve. The Chair of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway provided a presentation on how to support Monarch butterflies in people's yards at the Spring Gardening Festival. In the audience were representatives of neighboring garden clubs and our local nature center.

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 Stormwater Management, the Ardsley High School Environmental 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. In June 2024 the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway was invited to Lyndhurst's Rose Weekend to advocate for pollinators through planting native plants. Literature on plants to support monarchs and free native plants were part of the information table.

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. 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. Ardsley Stormwater Management partnered with the Ardsley High School Environmental and Science Club to plant a butterfly milkweed garden on a vacant lot area overrun with invasive plants.

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.

[2024 Plant Pre-Order plant descriptions \(1\).pdf](#)

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

[festival 3 \(1\).png](#)

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

[IMG_2102 \(1\).jpg](#)

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

[IMG_2114.jpg](#)

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

2,249.

How many people attended your event?

250

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

In 2024 we continued to identify and provide opportunities for residents to acquire native plants. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway partnered with Zoe's Native Plants in Dobbs Ferry to sell native plant plugs below retail cost to residents. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway also provided free native plant plugs (*Packera aurea*), and free milkweed and native plant seedlings at the Spring Gardening Festival, held in March 2024. Residents were also informed of local native plant sales and purchasing opportunities through the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway website, newsletters, and email communications.

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.

[Copy of Milkweeds for Ardsley - 2023.docx \(1\).pdf](#)

How many people attended your event?

250

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweeds: Common, whorled, poke, green, swamp, butterfly, showy, red.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway both purchased and collected milkweed seeds and cold stratified them in pots over the winter to be given away at the Spring Gardening Festival in March, 2024. In total four 50-plug trays of milkweeds were provided free to attendees.

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.

[IMG_2448 \(1\).jpg](#)

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

[IMG_2444.JPG](#)

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

[IMG_2435.JPG](#)

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

[IMG_2428 \(1\).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 five public pollinator demonstration gardens located at The Ardsley Public Library (9 American Legion Drive, Ardsley, NY), The Anthony F. Veteran Park (11 Olympic Lane, Ardsley, NY) and the Hart's Brook Park and Preserve (156 Ridge Road, Hartsdale, NY). The gardens were designed to provide both host and nectar plants for monarchs throughout the growing season.

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

The Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon Chapter, The Town of Greenburgh, Greenburgh Parks and Recreation, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, and 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.

.02

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

[Planting 05 11 2024.jpg](#)

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

[Happy Butterfly plants 05 21 2024.jpg](#)

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

[Finished garden 05 11 2024.jpg](#)

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

[Butterfly Milkweed seed 09 06 2024.jpg](#)

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

[Butterfly Milkweed and Cosmos 06 12 2024.jpg](#)

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

[Butterfly Milkweed 05 27 2024.jpg](#)

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

The milkweed garden is behind the Ardsley Ambulance Corp building (19 American Legion Drive, Ardsley, NY)

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

Ardsley Storm Water Management, the Ardsley High School Environmental and Science Club

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.

.01

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.

In spring, 2024 a vacant area of a lot behind the Ardsley Ambulance Corp, overrun with invasive plants and weeds, was cultivated and a milkweed garden was installed. In addition to the swamp milkweeds, annual cosmos were added to provide ongoing nectar for monarchs. The lot is looked after by Ardsley Stormwater Management.

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. <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>

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.

[Harts Brook Bench Garden - bench area.pdf](#)

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

[Harts Brook Bench Garden -cherry tree area.pdf](#)

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

[Harts Brook Bench Garden -triangle front area.pdf](#)

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

[Harts Brook Sundial Garden.pdf](#)

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

Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon, The Town of Greenburgh

How many plants were planted?

350

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year we added two new public demonstration pollinator gardens and expanded our three existing public pollinator demonstration gardens. We focused on adding milkweeds and the favorite nectar plants of monarchs. Attached are the designs and plant lists for the two new 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.

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

[Invasive vine cutting_pictures.pdf](#)

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

[Help Tame Invasive Vines Poster.jpg](#)

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

[Metrics for SCT 3-16-24 for WPF.jpg](#)

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

[Invasive Vine Flyer \(1\).pdf](#)

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

[Macy Park Vine Cutting - January.pdf](#)

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

.2

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.

Four vine cutting events were held in 2024 in partnership with the Westchester Parks Foundation. Two vine cutting events were held at Macy Park and two on the South County Trailway at Ardsley's border.

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.

[2024 Spring Gardening Festival events.pdf](#)

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

[2024 PP Spring Festival \(1\)_\(1\).jpg](#)

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)

250

What was the date of your festival?

March 10, 2024

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 Pollinator Pathway, the Ardsley Garden Club, the Ardsley Scouts, the Greenburgh Nature Center, the Tarrytown Pollinator Pathway.

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 sponsored the second Ardsley Spring Garden and Butterfly Festival at the Ardsley Community Center. This event brought the community together to learn how to create pollinator gardens, support monarch butterflies, control invasives in their yard, and purchase native plant plugs (with monarch key plants identified). We had 'monarch ambassadors', our Mayor and a high school student representative, who hosted a table offering information on how homeowners could support monarch butterflies as well as offering free milkweed seedlings (common, butterfly, whorled, swamp, green, red, and showy) to participants. Sponsoring organization representatives dressed as monarch butterflies or bees to set the festive pollinator tone for the event.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Ardsley Mayor, Ardsley Village Manager, Ardsley Trustee, Chair of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway researched best practice codes for incorporating a majority of native plants in new construction landscapes.

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

A draft code was presented in April to the Mayor and Village Manager and the Trustee liaising with environmental committees. The code is being revised and reviewed and will be sent to the full Board for review in 2025.

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 November 2024 \(3\).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 (provided on our website, www.ardsleypollinatorpathway.org), and a milkweed seedling give-away at our Spring Gardening Festival. In 2024, our monthly newsletter, The Ardsley Cross Pollination News, regularly covered topics on supporting monarch butterflies. The newsletter reaches 1,000+ people each month. The newsletters are too large for the 5MB limit to upload here but can be accessed at <https://www.ardsleypollinatorpathway.org/home/helping-pollinators/cross-pollination-newswebinars>. The January, February, March, Sept/Oct, October newsletters specifically targeted monarch support with articles and links. Each November we create a monarch butterfly edition of the newsletter (November 2024 is attached) focusing on how homeowners can take specific steps to support monarchs in their yards.