

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, creating native gardens for pollinators, and encouraging residents to build gardens for monarchs. The Village has launched the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Project to help save endangered pollinators and birds. 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, 2023 and 2024. The Village is proud to support our beloved monarch butterflies.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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 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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.

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.)

30

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).

.03

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 parks, municipal plantings, resident yards, container gardens

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

This year we provided free native plants and seeds to anyone with interest in starting or expanding a pollinator garden, removing the cost/sourcing barrier. We also hold a free workshop series, open to anyone with interest, in partnership with the Town of Greenburgh Library and the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Committee/Pollinator Pathway, to create and install a pollinator garden in the spring. Focus on milkweeds and monarchs is part of the programming.

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 and other native seeds, seedlings and plants to homeowners has been very successful. One of the challenges is sourcing neonic free plants. Sourcing of native ecotypes also remains a challenge. Finally, our large volunteer teams to maintain the many public pollinator gardens has helped to 'convert' many newbies to the joy of native gardening for monarchs, pollinators and birds.

Selected Action Items

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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:

10-06-25

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.

[10.6.25 November Monarch Month Proclamation \(1\).pdf](#)

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

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 six public pollinator demonstrations gardens located at: The Ardsley Public Library (9 American Legion Drive, Ardsley, NY), The Anthony F. Veteran Park (11 Olympic Lane, Ardsley, NY), Pascone Park (507 Ashford Ave, 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. The garden at Pascone Park was designed specifically for the needs of monarch butterflies.

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, The Village of Ardsley, the Groundworks Hudson Valley Green Team, The Ardsley Scouts, The Ardsley DPW, 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.

.03

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).

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

[IMG_5153\[1\]\(1\).JPG](#)

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

[DSC04376 jjk \(1\).jpg](#)

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

[DSC04373 jk \(1\).jpg](#)

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/>

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.

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

[Village of Ardsley Native Plant Tree and Shrub Policy 01-27-2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

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

The Ardsley Mayor, The Ardsley Board of Trustees, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Village Administration

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

Complete

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.

1-27-25 is the date when a native plant policy was adopted by the Village of Ardsley requiring that all municipal plantings, with the exception of annuals, be native plants whenever possible.

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.

[Full to Part Sun Monarch Mailbox Gardens Step-by-Step \(3\).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 giveaway at our Spring Gardening Festival. In 2025, 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>. Each November we create a monarch butterfly edition of the newsletter (November 2025 is too large to attach - here is the link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MyXbOQJLezqxUk00oRkYfeBmjr0XkUeX/view?usp=drive_link) focusing on how homeowners can take specific steps to support monarchs in their yards.

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.

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

[IMG_5126\(2\).jpeg](#)

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

[Village of Ardsley Native Plant Tree and Shrub Policy 01-27-2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

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

[Pascone Park Monarch Meadow Garden - 2025 proposal 2.0.pdf](#)

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them 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 Ardsley Pollinator Pathway worked with the Village of Ardsley mayor, trustees and administrative staff on the design and implementation of a monarch meadow garden at one of Ardsley's parks. At the planting event were Ardsley Scouts, the Groundwork Hudson Valley Geen Team, Ardsley trustees, Pollinator Pathway members and community volunteers. In addition, Ardsley adopted a native plant policy for all plantings on municipal property to support pollinators and birds.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway led the project to install the Monarch Meadow Garden at Ardsley's main community park and worked closely with their Village Trustee liaison and the Ardsley Department of Public Works (DPW) to bring the project to completion. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway also regularly consults with the head of the DPW on native planting choices within the Village to support monarchs and other pollinators.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

One of the challenges for residents when creating a pollinator/monarch garden is the sourcing and cost of native plants. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, working with the mayor and village administration, decided to work on removing this barrier. In March of 2025 Ardsley sponsored a Pollinator Day event where over 650 native plants were given away for free. There was no barrier to entry to the event and regardless of your economic situation or where you lived you could walk away with native plants (including many milkweed varieties). In addition, free consultation was provided to help participants design and plant a pollinator garden. A special area was set aside at the event just for supporting monarch butterflies, including information on monarchs, free milkweed seeds and seeds of monarch favorite nectar plants. We also gave away over 100 milkweed seedlings. All 650 plants were adopted within the first 90 minutes of the event.

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.

[Pascone Park Monarch Meadow Garden - 2025 proposal 2.0.pdf](#)

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

[IMG_3347.jpg](#)

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

[IMG_3340.jpg](#)

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

[IMG_5074.JPG](#)

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

[IMG_5126\(3\).jpeg](#)

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

[IMG_9825.JPG](#)

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

Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, The Village of Ardsley, Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon, The Town of Greenburgh, Groundworks Hudson Valley Green Team, Ardsley Scouts

How many plants were planted?

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year we installed a large Monarch Meadow Garden at Pascone Park in Ardsley, adding to our five existing public pollinator demonstration gardens. We focus on adding milkweeds and the favorite nectar plants of monarchs in all of the public gardens. Attached are pictures of some of the gardens and the proposal for the 2025 monarch meadow garden.

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.

[Help Tame Invasive Vines Poster 11-22-25 .pdf](#)

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

[Help Tame Invasive Vines Poster 03-22-25 .pdf](#)

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

[Macy Pk 11 22 2025 1.jpg](#)

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

[IMG_5314.JPG](#)

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

[IMG_5312.JPG](#)

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.

Two vine cutting events were held in 2025. In partnership with the Westchester Parks Foundation, we led invasive vine cutting events at Macy Park (March and November). The March event was also in partnership with Ardsley CARES, an initiative of the Ardsley PTSA. In addition to invasive vine cutting an educational session was held at the start of each event to help participants identify native vs. invasive vines and increase awareness of invasive vine management on their own properties.

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.

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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.

[Copy of IMG_4137.JPG](#)

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

[Copy of IMG_4136.JPG](#)

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

[pollinator day flyer \(3\).jpg](#)

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

[Copy of IMG_4139.JPG](#)

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

[Copy of IMG_4137.JPG](#)

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

[Monarch-Did-You-Know-2 \(1\).pdf](#)

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)

275

What was the date of your festival?

April 6, 2025

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

The Village of Ardsley, Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, Trustee Steve Edelstein, Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Ardsley Stormwater Management, the Ardsley Garden Club, The Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Committee/Pollinator Pathway, Wild Ones of Hudson Valley, Ardsley Girl Scouts

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).

Our goal was to get native plants in the ground, educate participants on the importance of native plants, provide information (and milkweed plants and seeds) to support monarch butterflies, and make starting a pollinator garden easy through providing free garden design and consultation services at the event. We removed the barrier of accessibility to and cost of native plants by giving away over 650 native plants and hundreds of native seeds. Marketing was done via social media, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Newsletter (1,000 readers), the local paper (The Rivertowns Dispatch) and through affiliated organizations highlighting the event in their social media feeds and websites. The event was held at the Ardsley Community Center. Though the event was advertised to last from noon to 4 pm all plants were adopted within 90 minutes of the event. People stayed for the free consultations and to learn more about monarchs, native plants and stormwater management. This was a highly successful event with a line out the door waiting to enter. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway provided continuing support to participants after 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.

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

[village_of_ardsley_native_plant_tree_and_shrub_policy_01-27-2025.pdf](#)

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, the Ardsley Board of Trustees, The Ardsley DPW, the Ardsley Village Administration

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

Complete

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.

The native plant policy was adopted 1-27-2025.
https://www.ardsleyvillage.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4126/f/uploads/village_of_ardsley_native_plant_tree_and_shrub_policy_01-27-2025.pdf

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

Also in progress are codes to require a high percentage of native plants for any new construction or renovations that require a landscape plan; allowing front yard managed native landscapes, managing illumination and lighting and an in-depth tree code to preserve and increase the native tree canopy.

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.

[Great plants for your garden March 2025.pdf](#)

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

[nappc_monarch_brochure_ver8 \(1\).pdf](#)

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

[Copy of Milkweed foster parent guide.docx \(4\).pdf](#)

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

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

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

[04.29.2025_sapling_Givaway \(3\).pdf](#)

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

900

How many people attended your event?

350

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

We had two events in 2025 (free trees and free plants). The Ardsley Mayor, Ardsley Village administration, Ardsley Parks and Recreation, Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Ardsley Stormwater Management, Ardsley Garden Club, Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Committee, the Dobbs Ferry Garden Club and Pollinator Pathway, Wild Ones Hudson Valley, Girl Scout of Ardsley, The Town of Greenburgh, The Greenburgh Public Library