Village of Ardsley

Ardsley, NY

Mayor Steve Edelstein

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, 2024, and 2025. The Village is proud to support our beloved monarch butterflies.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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-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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

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." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

20

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.

.03

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.

Public parks, municipal plantings, resident yards, community gardens, 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. A 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

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

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? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year we expanded a large Monarch Meadow Garden at Pascone Park in Ardsley. Additionally a new monarch demonstration garden was installed in May 2026 as part of an Eagle Scout project.

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 (1).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

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 Adminstration

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.

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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.

The Mayor’s Monarch Pledge (1) (1).docx

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

nappc_monarch_brochure_ver8 (2).pdf

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

monarch_butterfly_worksheet (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 (2) (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 (provided on our website, www.ardsleypollinatorpathway.org), and a milkweed seedling give-away at our Spring Gardening Festival. In 2026, our monthly newsletter, The Ardsley Cross Pollination News, regularly covered topics on supporting monarch butterflies. The newsletter reaches 1,200+ 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 2026 is too large to attach - here is the link https://drive.google.com/file/d/16IZBND9qCRpUz4X9ejdOhpC27dsEZrB5/view?usp=sharing) focusing on how homeowners can take specific steps to support monarchs in their yards.

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.

Great plants for your garden March 2025 (1).pdf

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

Get Growing Poster (1).png

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

We have numerous groups within the Village of Ardsley that support monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway focuses on helping residents create pollinator and monarch butterfly friendly yards and public spaces. The Ardsley Garden Club plants milkweed species and other native plants loved by monarch butterflies. An Ardsley Scout Eagle project installed a monarch butterfly garden, including an educational sign about monarchs and how residents can support them in their own yards. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway supports neighboring groups, such as the Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, in events that educate the public about the need for native plants and milkweeds to support monarchs. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway also maintains numerous public native gardens that support monarchs and other pollinators. They engage residents in tours as well as numerous volunteer activities to involve residents.

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.

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The Mayor’s Monarch Pledge (1) (1).docx

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway regularly engages with other organizations that support pollinators and monarch butterflies including: The Ardsley Garden Club, The Dobbs ferry Garden Club, Westchester Pollinators, Health Yards, The Nature Center at Greenburgh, and the Resilient Rivertowns Sustainability Network. We also work closely with the Master Gardeners of North Virginia to provide monthly webinars on how to support pollinators and increase ecodiversity in residential yards.

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

The focus and partnership opportunities are on: 1) Raising awareness about the negative impact of pesticides on residential properties; 2) Educating the public on the benefit of native plants to support pollinators and monarchs; 3) Reducing lawn space to create additional habitat in yards; 4) Raising awareness of the plight of the monarch butterfly and simple actions homeowners can take to support their survival. In May of 2026 the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway partnered with Woodlands Temple at the annual village Mitzvah Mixer event to educate attendees on how to support monarch butterflies in their yards. Educational brochures, free seeds of monarch loving annuals, and information about monarch butterflies were given away at the event.

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. Ardsley sponsors an annual Pollinator Day event in the spring where over 700 native plants are 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 700 plants were adopted at the event, making a big impact.

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.

gardening_seed_library_events_fall26.png

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

Ardsley Pollinator Day flyer (3).jpg

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

Native Seed event.png

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

800

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

275

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

We had three events in 2026 offering free trees, plants and seeds. The following leaders/organizations were engaged: 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

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Club and Pollinator Pathway, Girl Scout of Ardsley, The Town of Greenburgh, The Greenburgh Public Library, Woodlands Temple and the Ardsley Public Library.

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 seven 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 (contains an Eagle Scout Monarch Butterfly Demonstration Garden and the Monarch Meadow Garden) (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 gardens at Pascone Park were 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 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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.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.

Arbor Day 2026.png

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

DSC04378 ljk (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, and the Ardsley Green Taskforce.

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 invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

.02

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.

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Two vine cutting events were held in 2026. On March 7, in partnership with the Westchester Parks Foundation, we led an invasive vine cutting event at South County Trailway near Ardsley, NY. In later March the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway partnered with the Ardsley PTSA on Ardsley Cares Day to cut invasive vines at Pascone Park in the Village. 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.

Ardsley Pollinator Day flyer (3).jpg

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

IMG_5955 (1).JPG

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)

200

What was the date of your festival?

April 26, 2026

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

The Village of Ardsley, Mayor Steve Edelstein, Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Ardsley Stormwater Management, the Ardsley Garden Club, The Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Committee/Pollinator Pathway, 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 700 native plants and hundreds of native seeds. Marketing was done via social media, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Newsletter (1,200 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. People took advantage of the free consultations and the opportunity 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.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

IMG_6763.JPG

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

IMG_6762.JPG

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

1

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

The newest monarch butterfly demonstration garden in the Village of Ardsley was installed in Spring of 2026. As part of the garden's installation a large educational sign on Monarch Butterflies was also installed.

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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?

The Ardsley Village Manager, the Ardsley Mayor, the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, the Ardsley Building Inspector

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

We have drafted a managed natural landscape update to the Ardsley Village code to allow for native plants, including native grasses, to be allowed on front yards as long as the area is neatly maintained and purposeful.

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

This draft code update was sent to the Village Board for review and comment in late 2025 and returned for further revisions, specifically to define standards on how to fairly evaluate a 'managed natural landscape'. We will resume modifications to the draft code in 2027.

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:

10-19-26

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.

10.19.26 November Monarch Month Proclamation.pdf

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.

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 in 2026. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway worked with the Village of Ardsley on the second phase of a new monarch meadow garden at Pascone Park. In addition, Ardsley continues to only plant native plants in municipal spaces as a result of its native plant policy, adopted in 2025.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway regularly consults with the head of the DPW and Village Manager on native planting choices within the Village to support monarchs and other pollinators.

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.

gardening_events_fall26-600x777.png

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

2026 Seed Gathering Workshop (1).png

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

25

What species were collected or propagated?

Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed and Common Milkweed plus native plants that are monarch butterfly favorites.

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

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and Town of Greenburgh hosted the seed gathering event at one of the public pollinator gardens in October, 2026. In addition a seed swap of native plant seeds was held at the Ardsley Library in October 2026.

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

Milkweed seeds were gathered and education on how to cold stratify the seeds was provided to participants. In addition to providing milkweed seeds to participants the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway also packaged the milkweed seeds for the new Village of Ardsley Library seed catalog, making the seeds available to all who visit the library.

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