Town of Hempstead

Hempstead, NY

Town Supervisor Don Clavin

Pledge Summary

The Town of Hempstead is proud to be America's largest township, with a population of approximately 770,000 people, and also one of the nation's oldest, dating back to 1644. Bordering New York City to the east, and the Hempstead Bay estuary and Atlantic Ocean on the southern border, the town encompasses more than 142 square miles, 20,000 acres of wetlands, and 180 miles of coastal waterways. With 2022 being the first year the Town of Hempstead will be taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, the town is committing to various actions that include public outreach and education about native pollinator plants that support monarch populations, a citizen science project where the town will be tagging monarch butterflies in partnership with Camp ANCHOR in Lido Beach, and installing several demonstrating gardens at town facilities. The town owns and operates a greenhouse that is focused on native pollinator plant species that will be able to support many of these action items.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.

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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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
Town Supervisor John Ferretti	2026	3/27/2026	
Town Supervisor Don Clavin	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Town Supervisor Don Clavin	2024	3/19/2024	Leadership Circle
Town Supervisor Don Clavin	2023	3/28/2023	Leadership Circle
Town Supervisor Don Clavin	2022	4/27/2022	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.).

790000

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.)

170,000 youth 620,000 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.48

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.

The majority of our habitat is being created in community gardens, shared public spaces, nature preserves, and parks.

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

Through funding from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways was able to obtain 18 swamp milkweed, and 20 butterfly milkweed plants that were donated to the Roosevelt Community Garden in the fall of 2022. Roosevelt is a hamlet within the Town of Hempstead that is classified as a disadvantaged community and environmental justice area, as defined in New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Over 95% of the community is considered a minority group according to the 2020 US Census. Staff met with Andrea Millwood, a Volunteer Coordinator from the North Shore Land Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to preserving green spaces on Long Island, and manager of the 0.54 acre Community Garden in Roosevelt. Staff planted 18 butterfly weed plugs, and 20 swamp milkweed plugs inside the Community Garden throughout various planter boxes. The Department hopes to continue this new partnership in future years and aid in monarch habitat creation and preservation throughout the community. The Department of Conservation and Waterways has also collaborated with a group from the Town of Hempstead's Camp ANCHOR (Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation), a camp for children and adults with special needs and disabilities, and the local Kiwanis AKTION Club, a service club for adults with disabilities. Since 2018, campers have visited the Department of Conservation and Waterways' Clean Energy Park weekly in the summer to plant and maintain garden boxes containing fruits and vegetables, which are then harvested, weighed, and yields donated to local soup kitchens. In 2022, the program expanded to establishing 2 pollinator gardens on camp property with educational signage, which are also maintained by this group from ANCHOR. In the fall, members from the Kiwanis AKTION Club participated as Citizen Scientists and learned how to tag monarchs, record data, and submit information to Monarch Watch. With all of our past and current success working with Camp ANCHOR and the Kiwanis AKTION Club, we hope to be an example for other groups to include the special needs community when spearheading their own Monarch Pledge, or any other community effort.

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

The Town of Hempstead has always been committed to participating in various environmental and conservation initiatives. The action items outlined in the Pledge align with many programs and projects the Town has spearheaded for years, and provide a drive for us to expand upon our current efforts to institute systems changes , increase communications efforts, and grow the amount of demonstration gardens and educational materials available. The Town strives to be a leader in monarch conservation and awareness, and will continue to promote monarch habitat preservation, creation, and public outreach.

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?

The network-wide zoom calls, Mayors' Monarch Pledge E-Newsletter, National Wildlife Federation website dedicated to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, and the Monarch Watch

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website were most helpful in completing action items. In the future, it may be helpful to create educational and outreach material for communities to distribute at events, provide grant funding opportunities and resources, highlight case studies and research on monarch conservation, and showcase other successful communities who have taken the pledge and how they were able to complete action items.

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

The Town has created a page dedicated to native plants and pollinators on its website with resources for residents to find where and what plants to choose for their backyards, and the many benefits of planting natives and pollinators. We have created a QR code for this page to place on educational signs, on seed packet giveaways, and other outreach material showcased at community events. Additionally, we have launched a Citizen Science effort tagging monarchs with stickers from Monarch Watch this year. By inviting residents to our facility to learn how to tag monarchs and submit data on their own, we are able to highlight our various demonstration pollinator and rain gardens, the process of growing pollinators and native plants in our greenhouse, and answer any questions volunteers may have about the Pledge and what they can do in their own backyards.

Selected Action Items

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:

03/22/22

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

Hempstead Town Board Resolution

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

TOH_MMP_TBR2022.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.

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ecoupdate22.pdf

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

The Town of Hempstead Seasonal Ecology Update (uploaded to portal) was mailed out to over 249,000 residences in August 2022 featuring an article about the Town's commitment to completing various action items in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge by the end of the year. The article details general information about the monarch butterfly, resources and information about native plants and pollinators, and encourages residents to create monarch habitat in their own backyards. QR codes from other articles were featured to bring readers to our Conservation & Waterways Department's website, where they could explore various pages including the Native Plants and Pollinators page.

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.

Milkweedseed.jpg

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

SeedCollection.jpg

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

HofstraSeedCollection.jpeg

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

September 22 E-Newsletter.pdf

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

44

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed

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

Friends of the Hempstead Plains, Hofstra University

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

In partnership with the non-profit, Friends of the Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College, 44 students from a Hofstra University biology class and business club collected milkweed seed from 17 acres of preserve and donated it to the Department of Conservation and Waterways to be grown in our greenhouse and given away in seed packets at community events. Additionally, the Town of Hempstead has a list of volunteers interested in participating in various events and opportunities hosted by the Department of Conservation and Waterways. A Volunteer Newsletter was sent out in early September calling for volunteers to collect and donate milkweed seed found around our municipality to be planted at Town facilities or given away at events. Links to Monarch Watch and general information about milkweed were provided to those interested. A copy of this newsletter is included.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

MMP Signs.pdf

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

Pollinatorgardensign.png

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

Waystationsign.png

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

10

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

Our pollinator garden signs explain the area is planted with native plants and pollinators, and that it should be left in its natural state, neither sprayed nor mowed. A QR code takes visitors to a webpage on our Conservation and Waterways' website dedicated to native plants and pollinator information. It also has information about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and links to the National Wildlife Federation website. Below is a link to the webpage: https://hempsteadny.gov/940/Native-Plants-Pollinators Other habitat created this year with milkweed features monarch waystation signs purchased from monarchwatch.org, explaining the area contains milkweed, nectar sources and shelter for monarchs migrating throughout North America. Below is a link to the website where signs were purchased,

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which includes certifying the area as a waystation: https://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Waystation-Certification-Application-and-Sign-Bundle/190005

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.

MMP Garden Photos.pdf

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

The Clean Energy Park located at the Department of Conservation and Waterways Administration Building (1401 Lido Blvd, Point Lookout NY) hosts numerous school, non-profit, educational, scout, and environmental groups throughout the year to tour our facility and learn about sustainable practices. Groups learn about various types of renewable energy, sustainable home design, and native plantings that have been established around the park. The demonstration pollinator garden recently installed fits in perfectly at this site to promote wildlife conservation and show groups visiting an additional way to be sustainable in their own homes. Located directly next to the Lido Nature Preserve, which hosts an abundance of monarchs during migration, the Clean Energy Park is an ideal location to showcase a pollinator garden to groups coming to learn about conservation and sustainability. The Town's Sustainable Shellfish Hatchery, located on the same property as the Clean Energy Park, features a new pollinator garden outside its main building. Groups touring this facility are able to view the pollinator garden while learning about sustainable aquaculture. Next door to the Clean Energy Park is the Lido Passive Nature Area (1051 Lido Blvd, Point Lookout NY) which hosts a newly planted area of native grasses and pollinators following a removal of multiple invasive species. Across the street at the Town of Hempstead's Camp ANCHOR (630 Lido Blvd, Lido Beach NY), a camp for children and adults with special needs and disabilities, two pollinator gardens were installed and maintained with help from a group at the camp. With hundreds of campers walking by every day throughout the summer, these gardens will be a centerpiece for them to learn about monarch habitat and conservation. A small pollinator garden plot was established on Ocean Boulevard in Point Lookout at the walkover entrance to the main beach in town. Hundreds of residents walk by every day in the summer and will be able to view plants in the garden plot paired with educational signage on their way to the beach.

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

Town of Hempstead Camp ANCHOR, Kiwanis Aktion Club

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

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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

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.

MilkweedGiveaway.JPG

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

OutreachTable.JPG

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

Seedgiveaway.JPG

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

Seedpacket.JPG

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

Seedpacketback.JPG

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

AnnaHouseGarden.jpg

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

AnnaHouseSign.jpg

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

ParkAveGarden.jpg

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

ParkAveSign.jpg

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

SperlingPlot2022.jpeg

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

465

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

241

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

Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, All Our Energy, Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center, Long Island Native Plat Initiative (LINPI), South Shore Audubon, Town of Hempstead Camp ANCHOR, North Merrick School District - Park Avenue Elementary School, Marine Nature Study Area, Point Lookout Civic Association, Belmont Child Care Association - Anna House

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.

RCGButterflyWeed.jpeg

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

RCGButterflyweed2.jpeg

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

RCGSign.jpeg

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

RCGSwampMilkweed.jpeg

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

RCGSwampMilkweed2.jpeg

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

PLCommunityGarden.jpg

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

PLOCommunityGarden.png

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

ParkAveGarden.jpg

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

ParkAveSign.jpg

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

Roosevelt Community Garden, North Shore Land Alliance, Point Lookout Civic Association, North Merrick School District-Park Ave Elementary School

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

49

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Department of Conservation and Waterways was able to donate 38 pollinator plants (18 butterfly weed and 20 swamp milkweed plugs) to the Roosevelt Community Garden in the fall of 2022. After contacting the manager of the property, the North Shore Land Alliance, Town of Hempstead staff were able to convene at the garden and plant pollinators throughout various planter boxes, as most of the garden contains vegetables. It was a great success working with the group and we hope to continue the partnership in future

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years, and perhaps expand upon our efforts. The Department also donated 8 butterfly milkweed and 3 swamp milkweed to the Point Lookout Community Garden, located at the end of Lido Boulevard in Point Lookout, which is managed by the Point Lookout Civic Association. This garden contains many fruits and vegetables, and the pollinators planted will complement what is already established.

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.

2022 Invasive Species LNP.pdf

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

.50

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 Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways continued its ongoing commitment to invasive species removal practices to allow for native plants and pollinators to be incorporated into landscaping. In 2022, staff focused on two key sites: Seamans Neck Park (2700 South Seamans Neck Rd, Seaford NY) and Lido Beach Passive Nature Area (1051 Lido Blvd, Lido Beach, NY). In Seamans Neck Park, an area of phragmites was removed primarily by an excavator with excess plants hand pulled, and replaced with American beach grass, which has successfully established itself and allowed other natives such as marsh elder to spread throughout the site. In the Lido Passive Nature Area, autumn olive, Tree of Heaven, mugwort, bittersweet, and other invasive species were removed from the property by hand. The treated areas were planted with native grasses (little bluestem, Indian grass, purple top and purple lovegrass) and pollinators (Bee balm, butterfly weed, spicebush, and butterfly bush).

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.

Milkweeds & Nectar Plants Memo 2022 (2).docx

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

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Town of Hempstead Conservation and Waterways

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.

11/22/22

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

N/A

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.

MonarchManagementAreas2022.pdf

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

Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways Town of Hempstead Department of Parks & Recreation

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

Through internal meetings between the Department of Conservation and Waterways' biology division and landscaping division, staff discussed using best landscaping practices on Conservation and Waterways' properties and preserves. Biology staff encouraged landscape staff to avoid spraying pesticides/herbicides during peak monarch season, increasing the amount of native pollinator plants when possible, and to avoid mowing or cutting milkweed plants during monarch egg-laying season. Landscaping staff were also encouraged to remove invasives when possible, and how to identify and protect naturally growing milkweed on our properties. Staff were shown new pollinator and waystation signs to clearly delineate areas to be left untreated. Conservation and Waterways staff also met with Parks and Recreation supervisors to highlight areas on their properties containing milkweed and pollinators, and best landscaping practices moving forward. A map was shared with staff to show areas where monarch habitat was created and actively managed.

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We hope to connect with more Departments within the Town of Hempstead in the coming years to revise and update their mowing and planting practices.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

September 22 E-Newsletter.pdf

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

AktionClubButterflyTagging.jpg

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

Kiwanisdatacollection.jpeg

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

Kiwanistagging.jpeg

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

Kiwanistagging2.jpeg

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

Kiwanistagging3.jpeg

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

MMPDataCollection.jpg

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

MMPGroupPhoto.jpg

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How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

13

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

South Shore Audubon Society, Kiwanis Aktion Club, A Couple Without Borders

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

In September 2022, the Department of Conservation and Waterways hosted a Monarch Tagging Event with the public to demonstrate how to tag monarchs, record data, the benefits and research purposes of tagging and basic information about monarchs and their life cycles. Staff partnered with long-time volunteers who collect chrysalises from milkweed on parkway medians that are eventually mowed over and destroyed in New York City. They brought recently emerged butterflies to our event and demonstrated tagging techniques encouraging volunteers to order their own stickers and perform their own tagging in the coming years. A second event was held at the end of September with Kiwanis Aktion Club to show special needs students how to identify monarchs and tag them. A local teacher assisted in this effort. Throughout the 2022 tagging season, the Town of Hempstead staff were able to tag 59 Monarch Butterflies (https://monarchwatch.org/tagging)

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