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. In the Town's first year of taking the Pledge in 2022, Leadership Circle status was achieved. For the second year participating in the pledge, the Town is committing to various actions that build upon programs established in 2022, including 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 new demonstration 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 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

1.65

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.

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

The Department of Conservation and Waterways has 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's 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 of 2023, 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. In 2023, the Town has continued this partnership to expand on practices that create new monarch habitats.

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 many decades, 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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

The network-wide zoom calls, Mayors' Monarch Pledge E-Newsletter, National Wildlife Federation website dedicated to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, and the Monarch Watch 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 continued our Citizen Science effort tagging monarchs with stickers from Monarch Watch. 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. In 2023, the Town of Hempstead has furthered its commitment to monarch butterfly conservation through the strategic expansion of milkweed propagation. Leveraging the success of the previous year's seed collection program, the Town has effectively increased the production of native milkweed plants. This initiative has resulted in the distribution of over 700 native milkweed plants to residents and various local organizations. The focus of this effort is to support monarch butterfly populations by providing essential habitat resources. The successful propagation and distribution of these plants demonstrates the Town's ongoing commitment to biodiversity conservation and its role in fostering ecological resilience within the community.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

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"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

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

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.

PLCommunityGarden.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

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

The Department of Conservation and Waterways was able to donate and plant 30 milkweed plants (20 butterfly milkweed and 10 swamp milkweed) at the Point Lookout Community Garden in the spring of 2023. Town of Hempstead staff were able to convene at the garden and plant pollinators along the entrance to the planter boxes. It was a great success working with the group and we hope to continue the partnership in future years, and perhaps expand upon our efforts. As part of a larger ongoing project the Town is working with the Point Lookout Civic Association to increase the amount of Monarch friendly habitat on their properties.

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.

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.

Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways (DCW) - Multiple meetings occurred in the field to discuss improving landscape practices to focus on the protection of native pollinator plants. DCW biology staff engaged with DCW landscape staff to engage in best practices in our preserves. ○ Avoid spraying pesticides/herbicides during peak Monarch Butterfly season. ○ Increasing the number of native pollinator plants used in landscaped properties. ○ Avoid mowing or cutting milkweed plants during Monarch Butterfly egg-laying season. ○ Removing invasive plants on DCW properties. ○ Avoid treating areas where pollinator plant and Monarch Waystation signs are posted. ○ Identify and protect naturally growing milkweed populations. Town of Hempstead Department of Parks & Recreation - Multiple meetings occurred in the field to discuss improving landscape practices that focus on the protection of native pollinator plants. DCW biology staff engaged with Parks Department staff to encourage the removal of invasive plants in areas within Point Lookout Town Park.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

741

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

500

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Town of Hempstead Camp ANCHOR, Hofstra University, NYSERDA Clean Energy Institute, Sweetbriar Nature Center, Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District, South Shore Audubon Michael Sperling Bird Sanctuary

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.

Milkweed Seed Collection Protocol (1).pdf

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

10

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), Butterfly Milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa), Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)

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

Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways

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

Town of Hempstead biology staff conducting ongoing milkweed seed collection on select Town properties. Staff followed attached protocol guidelines for collecting.

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.

NativePlant-2023-NonMailer.pdf

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

The Towns Conservation and Communications departments both worked together together on a detailed mailer for the nearly 800,000 residents of the Town of Hempstead. This full color, 4 page mailer included a "plant this, not that" diagram which depicted select native plants to use over common landscape non-natives. The mailer also spoke about the Town's successful 2022 Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the benefit of pollinators, and the ongoing battle with invasive species. This communication tool was a part of all Conservation sponsored events in 2023, as well as distributed by some local non-profit groups. The mailer will be turned into a brochure for future long-term use, and is also posted on the Town's website.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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.

Action6_Mineola1.jpg

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

Action6_Mineola2.jpg

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

Action6_Mineola3.jpg

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

Point Lookout Civic Association

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

In an effort to educate the public on the importance of pollinator friendly maintenance, the Town collaborated with the Point Lookout Civic Association to remove invasive species from areas in Point Lookout. Through this effort a large number of invasive plant species were removed from multiple areas during the 2023 planting season. As part of this ongoing effort, Town biology staff will create maintenance protocols for the newly planted areas.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

Action12_NormanJLevy1.jpg

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

Action12_NormanJLevy2.jpg

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

Action12_NormanJLevy3.jpg

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

Action12_Anchor1.jpg

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

Action12_clam plant.jpg

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

Action12_LidoPreserve1.jpg

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

Action12_LidoPreserve2.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)

The Clean Energy Park located at the Department of Conservation and Waterways Administration Building (1401 Lido Blvd, Point Lookout NY) hosts numerous schools, 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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

energy, sustainable home design, and native plantings that have been established around the park. The demonstration pollinator garden, installed in 2022, and maintained throughout 2023 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 2 pollinator gardens outside its main building. Groups touring this facility are able to view the pollinator friendly rain gardens that were installed in 2022, and maintained throughout 2023, 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 planted areas of native grasses and pollinators following a removal of multiple invasive species. During the 2023 season the Town expanded efforts to establish native pollinator friendly gardens throughout the Nature Area. 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, during the 2023 growing season, 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.The Town of Hempstead initiated a significant ecological enhancement at the Norman J. Levy Preserve located in Merrick NY in 2023 by establishing a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden. This involved the strategic planting of Asclepias incarnata (swamp milkweed, Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed), and Asclepias syriaca (common Milkweed) as well as a variety of native wildflowers around the preserve's ponds. The selection of these milkweed plants is pivotal, as it provides critical breeding and nourishment resources for monarch butterflies. The addition of diverse native wildflowers further ensures a habitat that supports a broad spectrum of pollinators. Situated in the 52-acre Norman J. Levy Preserve, a site known for its high visitor frequency, this garden is designed to enhance the ecological diversity and functionality of the area, contributing significantly to the conservation of local pollinator populations..

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

Camp ANCHOR, Kiwanis Aktion Club, Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve

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.

.04

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

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

ORG Anchor median (2).jpg

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

ORG Anchor median.jpg

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

Cleared Anchor median.jpg

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

prep Anchor median (2).jpg

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

prep Anchor median.jpg

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

Action14_AnchorPlanted1.jpg

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

Action14_AnchorPlanted2.jpg

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

The medians are located at the entrance to the Camp ANCHOR facility at the Town of Hempstead's Lido Beach Town Park located at 40.588682, -73.616478.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

121

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

0.02 acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The median plantings will be maintained by Town of Hempstead staff. During the spring, the area will be cleared of weeds and given a new topdressing of mulch. Any plants that did not survive the winter will be replanted with similar native pollinator friendly plants in the spring of 2024. Continued hand removal of weeds will occur throughout the growing season. In the fall some plants will be cut back to promote new growth for the following spring, and any plants that did not survive the summer will be replaced in the fall of 2024

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.

PLCommunityGarden.jpg

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

Point Lookout Civic Association

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

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Town of Hempstead was able to propagate, and plant 15 butterfly milkweed and 15 swamp milkweed plants at 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 the native plants that were established in 2022.

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.

Mineola (2).jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

Mineola.jpg

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

Lido Preserve MG.jpg

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

Action20_LidoPreserve.jpg

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

Spotted Lantern fly on ailanthus.jpg

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

Ailanthus_PointLookout.jpg

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

1.65

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.

In 2023, our team concentrated efforts on invasive species removal and ecological restoration across four key sites in our community: • Town of Hempstead Conservation & Waterways properties • Lido Beach Passive Nature Area • Point Lookout Ballfield Park • Ocean Blvd. in Point Lookout Invasive Species Addressed: Primary focus: Tree-of-Heaven Secondary species: Phragmites, Mugwort, Bittersweet, Japanese Knotweed Methods of Removal: • Heavy Equipment Use: Employed for large-scale removal of invasive growth across all sites. • Manual Removal: Specific to tackling phragmites, Mugwort, bittersweet, and other invasive species. • Chemical Treatments: Applied strategically for pervasive species like Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites. Restoration Efforts: Post-removal Treatment: All treated areas have been or are scheduled to be replanted with native grasses and pollinator-friendly plants, supporting local biodiversity and ecological balance. This comprehensive approach, combining manual, mechanical, and chemical strategies has significantly reduced the presence of invasive species in our community, paving the way for a healthier, more diverse ecosystem. Our efforts align with the goals of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, contributing to the preservation and enhancement of our local environment. Ongoing Projects: The Point Lookout Ballfield Park remains an active restoration site, with continuous management of invasive species and gradual introduction of native flora.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator sign.jpg

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

invasive removal.png

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

Action22_MonarchWaystationSign.jpg

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

16

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

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. QR codes take visitors to a webpage on our Town of Hempstead Dept. of 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 milkweed habitat created this year features Monarch Waystation signs purchased from monarchwatch.org, which explain that the area contains milkweed plants, an important nectar source and shelter for monarchs migrating throughout North America. Below is a link to the website where signs were purchased, which also certifies the area as a waystation: https://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Waystation-Certification-Application-and-Sign-Bundle/190005 Invasive species removal signs were placed in areas where the Town of Hempstead is currently removing invasive plant species to replant native species in their place. The QR code on the sign brings you to the New York State Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Plants booklet.

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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

Native Ones LI, Town of Hempstead Parks & Recreation Department, Point Lookout Civic Association, Long Island Invasive Species Management Area

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

In Progress

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

The policies and recommendations that were developed in 2022 under the Mayor's Monarch Pledge has already resulted in systems change, by increased coordination between the Town's Conservation Department and other departments, resulting in significantly improved management practices on Town properties, especially in Point Lookout Town Park. This include no-mow areas, reducing water usage and maintenance, restoration with native pollinator species, and clearing invasive overgrowth to allow for native plants to flourish. The Town has also coordinated with local homeowners groups on native plants, pollinator species, and invasive species, which has resulted in more specialized management of their landscapes in their communities. The Town has also coordinated with a local non-profit, Native Ones LI, who is working towards encouraging communities to adopt Tree Ordinances that support native species.

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.

Action18_MonarchTagging4.jpg

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

Action18_MonarchTagging3.jpg

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

Action18_MonarchWaystationSign.jpg

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

Action18_MonarchTagging2.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]

Action18_MonarchTagging5.jpg

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

Action18_MonarchTagging1.jpg

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).

15

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

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 2023, the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways (DCW) 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 from A Couple Without Borders, who collect chrysalises from milkweed on New York City parkway medians, before they were mowed, in coordination with NYC Dept. of Transportation. 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 beginning of September with Kiwanis Aktion Club to show special needs students how to identify monarchs and tag them. Throughout the 2023 season, DCW staff were able to tag 68 monarch butterflies (https://monarchwatch.org/tagging/).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u751:v1.14.0.49966]