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 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. During the Town's first two years of taking the Pledge, since 2022, Leadership Circle status was achieved. For the third year participating in the pledge, the Town is committing to various actions that build upon programs established in 2022 and 2023, 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 maintaining several 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 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

- 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.

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.)

170000

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.

2.59

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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

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. In 2024, the Town has continued this partnership to expand on practices that create new monarch habitats. With 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 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?

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 native plants. We have created a QR code for this page, posted educational signs, 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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

learn how to tag monarchs and submit data on their own, we were 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

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?

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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 Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Town of Hempstead Dept. of Sanitation, Town of Hempstead Dept. of Conservation & Waterways, Point Lookout Civic Association

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

The Town of Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways (DCW) engaged with staff from their own department's grounds crew, other Town departments including Sanitation and Parks & Recreation, and the Point Lookout Civic Association, to discuss best landscape practices. DCW staff provided information about proper native plant selection and best mowing practices. DCW also provided guidance on best practices concerning the use of pesticides and herbicides, specifically when to use them, and which species to target. DCW staff also met with staff from Town departments Sanitation and Parks & Recreation, and the Point Lookout Civic Association, to provide information concerning invasive species identification, management, as well as advise on planting native species to increase habitat availability for pollinators.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

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

2024_Action5_MMP-Poster.pdf

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

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA), Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI), Long Island Re-Leaf

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

Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways staff presented and displayed an information poster at the LIISMA symposium. This provided an opportunity to present and discuss previous years' accomplishments surrounding the Mayors Monarch Pledge, with many different gardening leaders. The Department of Conservation & Waterways also hosted a Long Island Re-leaf meeting, and gave a tour of the propagation greenhouse, and different areas of the property where best landscape practices have been used over the years. The Department of Conservation & Waterways was able engage with LINPI and received native fall flowering species to be included in the Town's plant propagation and monarch habitat restoration efforts.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2024_Action22_InvasivesRemovalSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_MilkweeedSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_NativeGrassesSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_NoMowSign.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

2024_Action22_PollinatorsSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_RainGardenSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_WaystationSign.jpg

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

23

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

Conservation & Waterways properties • 3 Waystation signs • 3 No Mow signs Lido Beach Passive Nature Preserve • 3 Waystation signs • 3 No Mow signs Point Lookout Town Park • 1 No Mow sign • 1 Waystation sign Newbridge Road Park • 5 Invasive Species Removal signs Norman J. Levy Park & Preserve • 1 Waystation sign Lido Beach Town Park • 2 Waystation signs Point Lookout - Ocean Blvd. • 1 Invasive Species Removal sign The pollinator garden signs explain that the area is planted with native plants, 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 & Waterways website dedicated to native plants and pollinator information. The Monarch Waystation signs, purchased from Monarch watch designate the gardens planted following the conditions for a Monarch Waystation. https://shop.monarchwatch.org/product/Waystation-Certification-Application-and-Sign-Bundle/190005 During the Summer of 2024 Conservation & Waterways staff created new educational signs to inform the public about plants they may encounter in some of the Monarch waystations. The signs will be used for future plantings and will be added to existing waystations next season.

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.

2024_Action12_CleanEnergyPark (2).JPG

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

2024_Action12_ShellfishHatchery.JPG

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

2024_Action12_EnergyParkRainGarden (2).JPG

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

2024_Action12_LidoPreserve (2).JPG

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

2024_Action12_NormanJLevy.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 demonstration garden is located at the Norman J Levy Park & Preserve. This restored landfill is now a highly visited nature preserve located at the Town of Hempstead Sanitation Department and serves as a prominent outdoor community location. The demonstration garden is located at these coordinates: 40.647711, -73.562880

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

The Department of Conservation & Waterways staff partnered with Department of Sanitation staff.

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.

0.16

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.

2024_Action6_PLCivicVolunteers.jpeg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways staff collaborated with members of the Point Lookout Civic Association to develop an invasive species removal program, focusing on the removal of Tree of Heaven, followed by a replanting of native pollinator plants in treated areas. The replanting effort focused on the use of native flowering perennial plants to increase pollinator habitats in the community. This effort is part of a larger project to enhance coastal resiliency of the community through use of native plant species for dune stabilization and erosion control.

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

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

2024_Action10_PlantGiveaway.JPG

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

2024_Action10_PlantTable.JPG

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

2024_Action10_BeachCleanup.jpg

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

2024_Action10_Arborday.jpg

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

750 Plants were given away at 3 beach cleanups, 1 Arbor Day, and 4 greenhouse tours

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

614

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, Uniondale Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead Camp ANCHOR, Sweetbriar Nature Center

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.

2024_Action18_AnchorTagging.jpg

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

2024_Action18_Tagging.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).

16

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

Camp ANCHOR, Kiwanis Aktion Club

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

In October 2024, the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways (DCW) hosted a Monarch Tagging Event with the Kiwanis Aktion Club to demonstrate how to tag monarchs, record data, the benefits of citizens science, and protecting monarch habitat. Throughout the 2024 season, working with our citizen science partners, DCW staff were able to tag 68 monarch butterflies, provide an overview of the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly, and a tour of the Monarch waystations that have been planted and maintained at the Lido Beach Passive Nature Preserve. (https://monarchwatch.org/tagging/)

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

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

2024_Action11_Propagation.jpg

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

8

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa), Whorled Milkweed (Asclepias verticillata), Showy Milkweed (Asclepias speciosa), Purple Milkweed (Asclepias purpurascens)

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

Town of Hempstead Conservation and Waterways Friends of the Environment (Volunteers)

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

Volunteers working with The Town of Hempstead's Dept. Conservation & Waterways staff followed the attached protocol to collect naturally growing milkweed seed from the Lido Beach Golf Course.

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.

2024_Action20_NewbridgeRoadParkVolunteers.jpeg

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

2024_Action20_Mineolablvd.jpg

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

2.59 acres

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

In 2024, the Department of Conservation & Waterways focused on invasive species removal and ecological restoration across multiple sites including Town of Hempstead Conservation & Waterways properties, Lido Beach Passive Nature Area, Point Lookout Ocean Blvd., and Point Lookout Mineola Blvd. The focus was to target multiple invasive species in these areas with a primary focus on Tree-of-Heaven, Phragmites, Mugwort, Bittersweet, and 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 Tree of Heaven. 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 Mayors' Monarch Pledge, contributing to the preservation and enhancement of our local environment.

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.

2024_Action14_SeaSpray.jpg

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

2024_Action14_SeasprayMedian.JPG

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

The Median is located at Town of Hempstead Point Lookout Town Park. (40.589897, -73.589958)

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

493

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.

0.15 acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]

o The median garden was planted to mitigate flooding in the Point Lookout Town Park beach parking lot and to replant an area where invasive vegetation was obscuring a clear line of site around the median, improving safety for motorists. This replanting effort focused on resilient species that can sustain heavy flooding, while also creating habitat for pollinators. The garden will be maintained by Town of Hempstead staff. During the spring, the area will be cleared of emerging weeds. Any plants that did not survive the winter will be replanted with similar native pollinator friendly plants in the spring of 2025. 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 2025.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u131:v1.14.0.49966]