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 780,000 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 three years of taking the Pledge, since 2022, Leadership Circle status has been achieved. For the fourth year participating in the pledge, the Town is committing to various actions that build upon programs established in 2022, 2023, and 2024, 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 focused on native pollinator plant species that will be able to support many of these action items.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.

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- 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.

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.).

793409

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.

0.31

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 rights-of-way and medians in Point Lookout (Town Park main parking-lot median), park beds at Point Lookout Town Park, the Rock Hall Museum entrance garden (Lawrence), demonstration areas at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area (Oceanside), plus distributed residential plantings supported through giveaways, and donation programs.

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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?

We prioritize free or low-cost plant distributions, hold events at bus-accessible public sites, coordinate with civic groups serving diverse neighborhoods, and provide plain-language, handouts. Partnerships with local schools and community organizations lower barriers to participation.

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

To protect migratory pollinators while improving neighborhood greenspaces, bolster coastal resilience, and expand hands-on environmental education that builds local pride and stewardship.

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, the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge webpages, and Monarch Watch's citizen-science materials have been the most helpful resources to date, especially for understanding best practices, staying informed, and connecting our local work to the larger network. Going forward, additional or expanded support—where these tools are not already available—would be especially useful in the form of ready-to-use, customizable outreach templates (including multilingual versions), more region-specific case studies that highlight successful municipal maintenance changes, and clearer "how-to" guides for equitable engagement with communities of color, low-income neighborhoods, and people with disabilities.

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

We installed and expanded high-visibility demonstration gardens (Rock Hall Museum; OSMNSA), converted median plots to pollinator habitat in Point Lookout, and coordinated invasive removal with native replacements. "No-Mow/Pollinator Habitat" signage is in place, and partnerships with gardening leaders and schools strengthened a pipeline for community training and sustained habitat care.

Selected Action Items

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

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In 2025, the Town of Hempstead engaged three community partners the Point Lookout Civic Association, Rock Hall Museum, and the Garden Club of Lawrence to promote monarch habitat. We provided site-specific guidance on incorporating Long Island native milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) and nectar plants into existing beds, shared seasonal planting windows and maintenance practices, and outlined options for sourcing locally grown starts from the Town's Sustainable Living greenhouse.

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 Parks Department, Town of Hempstead Dept. Conservation & Waterways

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

in 2025, the Town of Hempstead coordinated with Parks operations at Newbridge Road Park, Seamans Neck Park, and Point Lookout Town Park, and Department of Conservation and Waterways grounds crews , to refine mowing and planting practices that support monarch habitat. We met with relevant Parks supervisors and crew leads to confirm that designated native plantings (including milkweed and nectar sources) will not be mowed during the growing season or sprayed with herbicides/insecticides. No-mow zones were marked in the field, seasonal mowing windows were adjusted, and planting pockets were added/maintained along suitable edges and buffers. Follow-up site walks are scheduled each season to evaluate performance and expand zones where feasible.

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

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 2025, the Town of Hempstead engaged the Point Lookout Civic Association to expand monarch-friendly habitat and adjust routine maintenance. We advised leaders and volunteers on installing native milkweeds and nectar plants, identified existing natives to retain, and outlined no-mow/no-spray practices during the growing season. We also provided best-practice guidance for invasive species management (prioritizing mechanical removal and targeted, timing-sensitive treatments away from milkweed stands). Follow-up coordination covers seasonal planting windows, signage placement, and mower routing to protect habitat areas.

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

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

(40.5899, -73.5904)Town Park at Point Lookout – main beach parking lot, central median located at 1300 Lido Blvd, Point Lookout, NY 11569.

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

422

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.

0.275 acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintenance for the Point Lookout Town Park median pollinator planting will focus on establishment. During Year 1 (May–September), beds are hand-weeded weekly, with 2–3″ mulch maintained in planting rings (kept clear of stems). Mowing is excluded inside the bed, and a no-mow buffer is maintained, avoiding peak monarch breeding and bloom periods (May–August) and pausing when plantings are in heavy flower. Seasonal care includes a March–April inspection, edging, and mulch top-dressing if vigor is low; summer removal of invasive species before spread; and September–October light trimming only where lateral spread is undesirable. From November to February, stalks are left standing for habitat; in late February to March, stems are cut back to 6–8″. An IPM approach is used—no insecticides or neonicotinoids. Monthly monitoring for plant vigor, weeds, and litter; “No-Mow/Pollinator Habitat” signs are kept visible.

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.

6 — Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District (NCSWCD); Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County (CCE); Spadefoot Design and Construction; Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI); Farmingdale State College; Lawrence Garden Club.

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

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In 2025, the Town of Hempstead partnered with regional gardening leaders and educators to expand monarch habitat and public awareness. We co-developed native pollinator plantings at the Marine Nature Study Area, with installation support from Spadefoot Landscaping and plants propagated in the Town greenhouse. Staff participated in the Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District's Arbor Day giveaway at Cornell Cooperative Extension to distribute milkweed and monarch-friendly nectar plants to residents. We also hosted an on-site program for the Lawrence Garden Club on creating Monarch Waystations and supported a Farmingdale State College internship focused on sustainable landscaping and monarch habitat design. Together, these collaborations advanced hands-on habitat creation, plant distribution, and community training in support of monarch conservation.

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)

8

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias tuberosa, Asclepias incarnata, Asclepias verticillate, Asclepias virdis, Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias speciosa, Asclepias purpurascens

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

Town of Hempstead Dept. Conservation & Waterways

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

In 2025, the Town of Hempstead continued its ongoing milkweed seed collection and propagation program. Staff and trained volunteers collected ripe pods from designated, pesticide-free mother stands on Town and partner properties, recording species, site, and date to preserve local provenance. Seed was dried, cleaned, labeled, and cold-stratified for 30–60 days, then sown and grown out as plugs in the Sustainable Living greenhouse.

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.

2025-CHRISTOPHER-SMITH.xlsx

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

2025 Monarch Tagging.jpg

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

Monarch 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).

8

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

Town of Hempstead Dept. Conservation & Waterways, Garden Club of Lawernece

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

The Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation & Waterways staff partnered with the Garden Club of Lawrence. Town staff tagged 84 monarch butterflies as part of the Monarch Watch tagging program. It provided a live tagging demonstration for Garden Club of Lawrence members, sharing information on creating and maintaining Monarch Waystations with the five attendees.

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.

Newbridge(2).jpg

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

Newbridge.jpg

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

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0.89

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 2025, the Department of Conservation & Waterways focused on invasive species removal and ecological restoration across multiple sites including Town of Hempstead Conservation & Waterways properties, and Lido Beach Passive Nature Area. 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. 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.

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.

2025 Lido.jpg

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

2025 Ldio.jpg

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

2025Lido.jpg

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

Point Lookout Civic association, Rock Hall Museum, Oceanside Marine Nature Study Areas, Spadefoot, Town of Hempstead Parks Dept.

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

701

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Town partnered with the Point Lookout Civic Association, Rock Hall Museum, Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, Spadefoot, and the Town of Hempstead Parks Department to install and maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in community gardens and park landscapes. New pollinator plants were added throughout the Point Lookout community and used to expand a larger garden at Point Lookout Town Park. The Town also designed and planted a new Monarch Waystation garden at the Rock Hall Museum entrance, creating visible habitat and educational value for visitors. In addition to new installations, staff and partners maintained previously planted monarch and pollinator gardens by weeding, refreshing mulch, and replacing plant losses to ensure these sites continue to function as healthy, long-term habitat.

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.

2025Arborday.jpeg

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

2025Arborday.jpg

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

2025Arborday(1).jpeg

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

Seed giveaway.jpg

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

1092

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

780

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

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Nassau County Soil &Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooporative Extention, Long Island Native Plant Initative , Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, Margaritaville University

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.

2025waystation.jpg

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

2025OSMNSA.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)

Rock Hall Museum — 199 Broadway, Lawrence, NY 11559. Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area (OSMNSA) — 500 Slice Dr, Oceanside, NY 11572 . Sea Spray Drive at Point Lookout Town Park — Point Lookout, NY 11566. Town of Hempstead Clean Energy Park — 1401 Lido Blvd, Point Lookout, NY 11569.

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

Town of Hempstead Dept. Conservation & Waterways, Spadefoot, Garden Club of Lawrence, Town of Hempstead Parks Dept

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.

0.54

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_NoMowSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_WaystationSign.jpg

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

2024_Action22_InvasivesRemovalSign.jpg

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

32

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 • 8 No Mow signs Point Lookout Town Park - 5 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 Rock Hall Museum- 1 Monarch waystation sign The pollinator garden signs explain that the area is planted with native plants, and that it shouldbe left in its natural state, neither sprayed nor mowed. QR codes take visitors to a webpageon 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-SignBundle/190005

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