Town of New Castle

Chappaqua, NY

Town Supervisor Victoria Bayard Tipp

Pledge Summary

As described in the Town of New Castle 2017 Comprehensive Plan, New Castle's land area is comprised mainly of bucolic, low-density residential neighborhoods. Of the Town's approximately 15,000 acres, 14,488 acres are zoned for single-family residential use, and of these, 91% (13,194 acres) have one- or two-acre minimum lot sizes. This low density residential development pattern, derived from the Town's zoning, has helped to maintain scenic vistas, large lots, areas of open space quality, and forested and undisturbed swaths of land that characterize the Town's neighborhoods. Preservation of the bucolic residential character of the community's neighborhoods is a priority to New Castle's residents, as reflected in our 7-Year Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day foundation, Bee City USA designation from the initiatives of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and completion of the Town of New Castle Natural Resources Inventory.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Victoria Bayard Tipp	2026	4/30/2026	
Town Supervisor Victoria Tipp	2025	3/31/2025	Signatories
Town Supervisor Victoria Bayard Tipp	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Town Supervisor Lisa Katz	2023	3/21/2023	Signatories
Town of New Castle New York, Town Supervisor Lisa Katz	2022	4/28/2022	Signatories

Action Items

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

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below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.01

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

A continuation of pollinator habitat conservation and adding to the Town's Bee City (Xerces Society), Tree City USA (Arbor Day Foundation), NYSDEC Tree-for-tribs restoration (continued invasive removals program to support 200+ trees & shrubs planted in 2022).

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 Town has passed ordinances which prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf blowers until October 1, property maintenance code specifically tailored to lawn reduction, native planting reaching maturity and minimize mowing, and tree preservation. Having this general 'eco-friendly subject matter' legal support is certainly more helpful to achieve the pledge's goals. The breaking of habits is not embraced by all from an aesthetic perspective. The harder converts to bring to this side are the ones who fear trees, wildlife, Lyme disease and associate the eco-friendly approach with promoting these risks (both real & perceived). It would be helpful to have resources which better compare the health risks associated with traditional methods (e.g. gas-powered mowers/blowers, lawn watering, spray pesticide for ticks etc.) Vs say "less lawn more life" approach.

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.).

750

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.

Town Hall & Downtown Seating Plaza

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

We 'giveaway' botanical supplies (seeds and trees), invasive species guides annually at public events. There are always knowledgeable volunteers and/or hosts who are willing to guide recipients on how to plant under various environs (e.g. suburban, street plantings, apartment terraces) to avoid discouraging any citizens from feeling they lack the luxury of readily available acreage-plant it!

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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.)

10

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

The Chappaqua Garden Club took interest in trying to obtain milkweed plants (common and swamp) for their annual plant sale this year in hearing of the Town's commitment to the pledge.

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

3

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

The Chappaqua Library operates a seed exchange program whereby they have organized folders which include the names of species and associated seeds available for the general public to both take and donate seeds. Cathy Paulsen (Head of Teen Services), Angela Morgan (member of the New Castle Conservation Board) and myself coordinated and agreed to harvest four 'bursting' seed pods from a naturally recruited Town Plaza common milkweed population (see attachment). The significance of this Plaza population is last year in spring 2023, the New Castle Recreation & Parks Department accidentally weed-whacked the area and the fallout from this event was citizens complaining through Facebook (Chappaqua Moms) and to the Town Board that this was a travesty, waste, irresponsible etc. As seen courtesy of this fall 2024 photo, when the plants emerged this spring I as the Environmental Coordinator inserted/hammered metal rods into the soil at the corners of the planting pit and tied yellow caution tape thereby ringing the area as a warning to our maintenance staff to leave alone.....guess it worked:)!

What species were collected or propagated?

Common Milkweed

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

Chappaqua Library, New Castle Conservation Board

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

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Milkweed Citibank Plaza.jpg

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

The naturally recruited rock outcrop demonstration garden continued for a second season by allowing the naturally recruited plants to mature, (which was less of an issue now that Recreation & Parks staff were aware of this areas significance and therefore knew to avoid cutting, weed-whacking etc.) It continues to serve as an example of the Conservation's Boards efforts to advocate for reducing active landscaping and maintenance, promote native plants and being cognizant of native fauna/habitat. ALSO BY CHANCE WALKING OUT THE BUIDLING DOOR, I OBSERVED THE FIRST MONARCH BUTTERFLY LANDING ON ONE OF THE MILKWEED PLANTS (SEE ATATCHED PHOTO SERIES). I didn't want to get too close for fear of scaring it away, but I'm hopeful you can make out the butterfly at the distance for this shot.

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

Town of New Castle Conservation Board, Town of New Castle Beautification Advisory Board, Town of New Castle Recreation and ParksRecreation and Parks

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

Monarch-Milkweed Town Hall.docx

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.

0.02

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

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

500

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

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Town of New Castle Community Day: Town of New Castle Conservation Board & Town of New Castle Beautification Advisory Board

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

Spotted Lantern Fly.docx

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

Two dozen eastern redbud seedlings in pots were available for residents to take. In addition, we also had available copies of the field guide "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, Jil M. Swearingen and Judith P. Fulton" to give to residents. Finally, we hung/displayed informational messaging regarding recent invader pest to the area "Spotted Lantern Fly" per the request of the Town Board to provide residents answers and resources to what evolved as concerns ('panic') over tree health, appearance of sooty molds and honeydew (their waste) staining and ruining their outdoor patios, decks, walkways etc. (see attached)

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