Town of New Castle

Chappaqua, NY

Town Supervisor Victoria 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 8-Year Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day foundation, Bee City USA designation from the initiatives of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

Systems Change

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

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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 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.).

75

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.)

5

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.

0.01

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.

Community 'International Peace Commemorative' Garden

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

It is difficult to discreetly locate such communities in New Castle. Westchester County ranks as the 40th most expensive to live in by County per Forbes magazine 2024. Then consider, between 2007 and 2016, median sales prices for homes in New Castle were, on average, $245,030 higher than median sales prices for all homes in Westchester County.

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

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New Castle residents are very competitive and very motivated. If other municipalities in close proximity are being recognized for their plant stewardship, there is an impetus to continue those good works here and not be singled out as a non-contributor.

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 webinars provided have been helpful. If feasible, if presenters and/or lecturers are willing to speak in person-that could illicit a different response from the audience in carrying the message forward.

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

There are two locations on Town lands that we continue to let common milkweed naturally recruit and propagate w/out intervention and foster prevention of weed whacking these areas courtesy of Town maintenance staff.

Selected Action Items

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Noise - Leaf Blower Law.pdf

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

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB), Conservation Board (CB) & Town Board (TB)

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

The driver was not mowing but rather to codify enforcement procedures of the Leaf Blower Law as the legislation was drafted and passed courtesy of pressure from the SAB and CB, but the Town's Departments were not apprised of how to carry out issuance of warnings & violations in response to complaints from residents. This continues to be on-going issue as there is a mixed opinion-some TB members feel the police while others feel Building Inspectors, should be the primary responders.

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

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

Earth Day Canva Poster.docx

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

18

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

50

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

Conservation Board, Chappaqua Garden Club, Saw Mill River Audubon, Federated Conservationists of Westchester

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.

International Peace Garden.jpg

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

International Peace Garden I.jpg

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

Peace garden plant printout.pdf

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

200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua NY 10514

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

64

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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.

0.001

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Watering by Town Recreation & Parks staff occurred throughout early and mid-fall as plants were installed in late summer/September. Next year beginning in mid-spring, the same staff will continue watering as needed. That need or not needed determination will be made by the Town Environmental Coordinator on weekly basis and gauged by precipitation frequency and volume of water in the week prior, as well as consideration for future weather forecast.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Tree City USA.pdf

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

Bee City Renewal Fee Authorization Memo and Backup.pdf

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

Conservation Board, Chappaqua Garden Club, Sustainability Advisory Board

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Conservation Board initiated a monthly newsletter summarizing timely/seasonally influenced tips on a variety of ecological principles as topics for residential property use https://www.mynewcastleny.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?CID=28&sort=date

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

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Geese spray grape flavor deterrent.pdf

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

Rodenticide Awareness.National Park Service.png

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

rats-poster.pdf

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

Conservation Board

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

The Town does not apply pesticides or herbicides to ground surfaces/green spaces. What was used targeted geese as a deterrent due their fecal deposition impact on local water quality as the ballfields lie adjacent two streams (Saw Mill River and feeder stream to Campfire Lake). This Board along with support from Saw Mill River Audubon and select private citizens, is actively petitioning the Town Board to draft a local law that would prohibit the use of anti-coagulant rodenticides on Town properties. Currently, 'bait boxes' exist at commercial businesses in Town owned buildings, and at the Towns food waste recycling facility.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

April 18, April 28 and May 7, 2025 for the geese deterrent. The rodenticide issue was first brought up at the May 13, 2025 Town Board meeting during the public comment period.

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

It is anticipated there will be a continuation of the geese deterrent program for 2026. The rat poison action item will continue to be on the Conservation Board's agenda to strategize and draft a proposed local law for future placement on a Town Board agenda in 2026.

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

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

NCCB_Tallamy Event_Bi-Fold Program._FINAL.pdf

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

The Conservation Board organized a free public lecture given by Dr. Doug Tallamy (Home Grown National Park) at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center on 11/2/25. Dr. Tallamy's fee was paid for the by the Town. A total of 419 people registered (capacity is ~425 people), and ~350 people attended.

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