Village of Tarrytown

Tarrytown, NY

Mayor Karen Brown

Pledge Summary

The Village of Tarrytown is a Hudson River waterfront community approximately 5.7 square miles in area, with over 250 acres of park land and open space. The Village Parks Department and the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council have been working in partnership in recent years to increase the number of pollinator-friendly planting spaces in public areas, from new beds in local parks, to plantings outside municipal buildings, to pollinator patches in tree wells along primary thoroughfares. In addition, the Village has supported the educational efforts of the Environmental Advisory Council to help residents and their children to learn about pollinator-friendly planting for their private yards and gardens.

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.)

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.
- 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
Mayor Karen Brown	2026	2/16/2026	
Mayor Karen Brown	2025	3/10/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Karen Brown	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Karen Brown	2023	3/7/2023	Signatories

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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.).

500

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.)

400 adults, 100 youth

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.

.25

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 parks, community gardens, resident gardens, rights-of-way, containers

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

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a framework that drives the public events and plantings accessible to all in the Village. The Sarah Michaels Park pollinator garden is located adjacent to a low income housing complex in the Village and has brightened the area considerably.

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

The community is engaged in environmental sustainability on multiple fronts, including cultivating pollinator and monarch-friendly habitats in public spaces.

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?

Resources and materials translated into Spanish would help as we have a considerable Spanish-speaking population.

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

The efforts have been driven by volunteers and supported by Village investment of labor and resources. The efforts have benefitted the community considerably both in terms of a strengthened ecosystem, and more beautiful public spaces.

Selected Action Items

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.

Mayor Brown'sGarden 7_23.jpg

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

This past May, Tarrytown Mayor Karen Brown planted a 15’x 12’ native garden with two varieties of milkweed along with numerous other deer resistant native plants that would sustain pollinators throughout the seasons. The Mayor’s efforts were publicized through the Village newsletter, TEAC’s newsletter and on social media to encourage residents to follow her lead and to plant for threatened monarchs.

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.

Earth Day Seed Giveaway 2023.JPEG

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

Rockerfeller Seed Giveaway 2023.jpg

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

Eco Fair 2023.jpg

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

Eco Fair group 2023.jpg

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

2,000 SEEDS, 200 BARE ROOT TREES, AND NATIVE MILKWEED SEEDLINGS WERE GIVEN AWAY AT THREE DIFFERENT EVENTS.

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?

TEAC, TREE COMMISSION, VILLAGE, ROCKEFELLER PRESERVE

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

200

What species were collected or propagated?

ROSE AND COMMON MILKWEED WITH OTHER NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

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

TARRYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, PARKS DEPARTMENT,

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

TEAC and Parks Dept. collaborated to collect and plant milkweed and other native seeds last fall..Volunteers collected seeds from public parks and established native gardens in Tarrytown. These seeds were planted in January using outdoor winter stratification and many successfully germinated.. Rose and common milkweed along with other natives were added to public gardens and donated to the public

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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MNR_TarrytownPollinators_081023_FINALsmaller.jpg

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

4

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

We have created an interpretative bilingual sign for our Metro North garden that lists the plants and explains the key steps of how to create and maintain a pesticide free pollinator garden for monarchs and others. This sign will be our prototype for new signs at other public garden locations in the Village going forward. Currently we have three interpretative signs in existing public pollinator gardens in the Village.

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.

Neperan 1st year .jpg

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

Neperan birdbath.jpg

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

Broadway 2023 Jenn and Sarah.jpg

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

CVS Planter N. Broadway.jpg

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

TARRYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, VILLAGE DPW, VILLAGE PARKS

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

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300

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Village of Tarrytown funded the planting of a 1400 sq ft native plant/ milkweed patch in Neperan Park, Tarrytown. This project was a collaborative effort involving the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council and the community garden group Little Gardens of Tarrytown. The Tarrytown Parks Dept. assisted with ground preparation and volunteers designed and installed the all native garden creating 1400 sq ft of pollinator habitat with 4 types of milkweed, goldenrod, asters, native grasses, bee balm, joe pye weed and other native plants to create year round habitat that would provide host and nectar plants for monarchs, native bees, birds and other pollinators. This garden was installed May 13, 2023 and is maintained by volunteers and watered by the Village. In addition, the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council, with assistance from the Parks Department, expanded the plantings at Sarah Michaels Garden, and planted tree wells and planters on Broadway, a major Village thoroughfare for both vehicles and pedestrians.

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.

MNR tree well July.jpg

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

MNR border strip.jpg

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

Liz and Sarah working cool7 (1).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)

METRO NORTH RAILWAY STATION ACROSS FROM VILLAGE HALL

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

TARRYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, VILLAGE DPW, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS TO NATIVE PLANTINGS

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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.

.25

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

10

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.

Tarrytown is tackling invasives on several fronts. Starting in January 2023 and continuing through mid spring of this year the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council organized and carried out bimonthly invasive species removal workdays at the Tarrytown Lakes, a large local recreational area. The vine squad comprised of 105 participants met bi-weekly between Jan 21 and April 1, 2023. All work was done by volunteers . Additionally our Parks Dept. does ongoing invasive removal in our parks and public areas. In October 2023, they targeted Japanese knotweed and tree of heaven in our Lakes area, removing and tarping large areas as a preliminary step to reclaim these areas for native plant restoration efforts.

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