Village of Tarrytown

Tarrytown, NY

Mayor Karen Brown

Pledge Summary

The Village of Tarrytown, a vibrant community located along the banks of the Hudson River in Westchester County , NY has been a strong advocate for pollinator conservation since 2020. The Village has collaborated with volunteers groups to create native gardens in prominent public spaces and parks throughout the Village. This corridor provides valuable habitat for threatened pollinators , showcases sustainable landscaping and brings the beauty of native plants directly to residents . Milkweed is a component of all our public gardens as we seek to help our threatened monarchs. Additionally the Village is undertaking a tree planting program to increase the tree canopy with the addition of native species. Invasive vine removal is an ongoing activity for Village departments and volunteer groups as is a campaign to educate residents about the threat of invasive vines.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.)
- 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.

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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.

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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

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.).

400

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.)

30

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.

.12

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.

Parks, private communities, Public planters, residences, community centers, churches

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

We are planting pollinator planters and collaborating on gardens at the Opportunity Ct. and Neighborhood House and the Community food garden. We are distributing free pollinator plants along with vegetable a nd flower seed to help people make the connection between pollinator friendly plants and garden health. We also print our flyers in Spanish to reach a larger audience..

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

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We believe that each of us can achieve positive change through our actions and that we can beauty our community and increase area diversity with a few cost effective ,simple actions. The process is very gratifying as each year we see more residents aware and interested in pursuing sustainable landscaping practices.

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?

We find that simple, highly visual flyers with step by step instructions are very effective. It would be helpful to have more bilingual , printable flyers available.

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

Given the effects of climate change and persistant fall droughts we are focusing on adding long blooming, drought tolerant nectar plants to fuel the fall migration . We have incorporated pollinator friendly annuals into many of our gardens to augment our late blooming perennials as temps stay warm into November.

Selected Action Items

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.

Winter Seeding plants (2).jpeg

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

Milkweed in restoration area (2).jpeg

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

Seed Collection .jpeg

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

Winter seed containers..jpeg

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

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Winter native seeing.jpeg

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

20

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias, anise hyssop, solidago(s), asters , monardas, penstemon digitalis, echinachea, native grasses, rattlesnake master, boneset, coreopsis, ox eye sunflower, nepeta, culvers root, joe pye weed, liatris, and many more,

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

Stone Barns , Hilltop Hanover Farm

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

Each fall our volunteers collect seeds from our public gardens . Additionally Stone Barns invites us to collect from their native meadow and Hilltop Hanover donates seeds. We focus on winter seeding asclepias incarnata to distribute at our plant giveaways throughout the year as this is a well behaved hardy species for beginning gardeners. We use the mini greenhouse method of outdoor winter seeding and promote this method at our fall outreach events. We've found that step by step instructions accompanied by a how to demonstration is crucial for people to master winter planting. Our volunteers winter seed numerous containers containing multiple native varieties. These plants are later distributed to the public or planted in public gardens.

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.

Interpretative Sign at MNR.jpeg

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

Neperan Interpretative Sign.jpeg

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

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FREE SEEDS A4_Spanish (2).pdf

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

Invasive Vines (Spanish)_Flyer.pdf

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

In 2025 the Village of Tarrytown installed 3 new bilingual interpretative signs in addition to our MNR sign that told the pollinator story with special reference to monarch butterflies, in highly visible public gardens . The signs provide a link to our website https://pollinators.tarrytownenviro.org/ which contains numerous resources for starting a sustainable pollinator garden. We also engage in ongoing social media postings, write monthly articles in the TEAC newsletter and distribute flyers at outreach events, all promoting native plantings and sustainable gardening practices that benefit monarchs and other wildlife.

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

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

Monarch on Coneflower Community Garden.jpeg

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

TEAC landscaping provided milkweed and other natives to the local community food garden to attract pollinators. We also held an event at the garden where we discussed the benefits of adding native plants to gardens and gave out native seedlings to gardeners to take home and plant in their own yards. Approximately 25 gardeners tend this garden.

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.

Milkweed in no mow zone Neperan Park(1).jpeg

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

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S Main Border Strip.jpeg

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

Tarrytown Parks Dept., Tarrytown DPW, Little Gardens of the Tarrytowns, TEAC

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

Over the past 4 years TEAC has collaborated with Tarrytown Parks and DPW to plant and maintain milkweed and other native plants in parks, tree wells, sidewalk planter and public gardens. Volunteer planting efforts have succeeded due to DPW and Parks watering these spaces . Additionally, DPW has been maintaining (removing invasives and shoring up deer protection) for a Village of Tarrytown "Trees for Tribs" site of over 200 trees and shrubs for the past 3 years. DPW and Parks now leave perennial plants standing throughout the winter in designated areas to shelter pollinators rather than cutting them in the fall. Leaves are left in garden beds , borders and wild areas of public parks. Leaves on park lawns are mulch mowed instead of blown or removed. Last year Little Gardens revised their fall "clean up" to adopt these practices as well. As a result lots of new natives including milkweed emerged due to self seeding this past spring.

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.

Native Seed Giveaway and Planting Demo.jpeg

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

Native Plant Giveaway.JPG

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

Seeds at TASH.jpeg

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

Plant giveaway.jpeg

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

TEAC Plant event.jpeg

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

We have found that seed and plant giveaways are our most successful means of community outreach. In 2025 we held 5 seed giveaways and 2 native plant giveaways. We distributed 1800 packets of seeds that were collected from regional native plant gardens and approximately 400 native plants that were grown from winter seeding. Included were 150 plugs of rose and butterfly weed purchased by the Village of Tarrytown.

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

400

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

TASH Farmers Market , Sustainable Sleepy Hollow, Lyndhurst Estate, Pocantico Foundation

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.

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

Lyndhurst Vine removal.jpeg

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

Ardsley Tarrytown Workshop Series.jpeg

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

Lyndhurst seeding demo.jpeg

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

1) Lyndhurst Estate , Chief Horticulturist 2) Pleasantville Garden Club 3) Ardsley Pollinator Pathway 4) Belvedere and Gracemere Estates , Head Groundskeeper

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

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1) TEAC co- hosted an invasive vine removal demo and a native seed giveaway with historic Lyndhurst Estate . In the spring Lyndhurst installed a prominent native garden including hundreds of butterfly weed plants near the mansion and visible to the Estate's many visitors. The Village of Tarrytown awarded Lyndhurst a " Green Landscape Champion" certificate for its commitment to sustainable landscaping practices. 2) TEAC joined with the Pleasantville Garden Club, one of the largest clubs in our region, to celebrate and promote planting for monarchs and other pollinators at a well attended Butterfly Fair in Vahalla, NY in June. 3) Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and TEAC Landscaping collaborated to hold a three day workshop series that educated attendees on how to design, plant and maintain a native garden. A special focus was planting for monarchs throughout the seasons both in sun and shade gardens. 4) Gracemere and Belvedere Estates, comprising numerous residential properties , installed four new native gardens this year with guidance from TEAC. The Estates are also now protecting stands of common milkweed and goldenrod in their "wild" areas and are adding keystone trees and shrubs to their landscape.

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 Planting Day.jpeg

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

Interpretative Sign at MNR.jpeg

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

MNR Bike Well Nice.jpeg

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

Broadway.jpeg

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

MNR October.jpeg

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

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Main St Planter.jpeg

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)

Tarrytown Metro North Railway Station, 1 Depot Plaza 10591, Planters and tree wells along N. Broadway and Main St.

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

Village of Tarrytown, TEAC, MNR, Tarrytown DPW

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.

0.03

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Adopt a Spot garden.JPG

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

Adopt a Spot Outreach.jpeg

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Traffic island at intersection of Mc Keel and Neperan Avenues, 10591

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

Suzy Allman, Village of Tarytown Adopt a Spot Program

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

-0.01

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How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

This lot was converted to a pollinator garden in the spring of 2025. In Dec. 2024 the Village of Tarrytown created a new program allowing residents to adopt and plant a public space with the commitment to maintaining it for a minimum of 1 year . Native and pollinator friendly plantings were required with all proposals. This program has allowed for new habitat to be created, beautifying the Village, without placing additional strain on Village employees and volunteers. In this project the resident adopter planted milkweed , anise hyssop , asters, echinacea plants with numerous pollinator friendly annuals such as zinnias, agastache and cosmos. It has proved to be a big hit with the community and is spurring many residents to expand planting in their own yards.

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.

Mini monarch gardens to share.jpg

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

Community garden plants.jpeg

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

Neighborhood House, Opportunity Center, Girl Scouts, Little Gardens, Tappan Manor Condo Assoc., Landmark Condo Assoc..

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

55

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We connected with community organizations and condo associations that had or were installing new gardens and shared rose and butterfly weed plants with them along with other natives such as anise hyssop and other well behaved natives. This proved to be a great opportunity to introduce local gardeners to native plants and demonstrate that natives

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can play a beautiful as well as a beneficial role in traditional gardens. It also opened the door to conversations about year round sustainable gardening practices .

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.

Neperan restoration.jpeg

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

PRISM Invasive Removal.jpeg

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

Removing porcelain berry Neperan.jpeg

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

Neperan invasive removal.jpeg

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

1.5 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.

The Village of Tarrytown battled invasives on several fronts in 2025. The Parks Dept. received a NY State PRISM grant to train personnel and volunteers on best practices for invasive plant removal and to remove invasives within 2 designated sites at the Tarrytown Lakes. A professional consultant helped participants correctly identify and use best practices for removing different varieties of invasives. Manual removal followed by selective herbicide application and ongoing monitoring were key elements. From January through March the Vine Squad , a group of volunteers led by TEAC, manually remove invasive vines from the Lakes and other trail areas in the Village. Last spring TEAC collaborated with the Parks Dept. to remove invasive plants and plant a 700 sq ft. pollinator garden in a border are of Neperan Park. Dense stands of porcelain berry and Japanese angelica were removed from a 900 sq ft area. Prior to planting, X Board paper was laid to aid in suppressing any emerging invasives. We have found that ongoing bi weekly monitoring and removal of new growth is key to vanquishing invasives.

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