Village of Seneca

Seneca, IL

Mayor Jeff Olson

Pledge Summary

The Village of Seneca is located in central Illinois with a population of 2,353. Seneca is proud of its three parks, including Crotty Park, Graves Park and the LST Boat Launch, with the recent addition of a Bark Park for our furry friends. We have beautiful planters throughout downtown Seneca and flower beds in all of our parks. Our community garden, located behind village hall on Main Street, has a butterfly garden that was recently planted by our local Girl Scouts. Graves Park has a pollinator garden and beautifully attracts butterflies of all types. Mayor Olson is committed to the National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to adding more pollinators to our beautiful village.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jeff Olson	2024	4/30/2024	
Mayor Jeff Olson	2023	3/9/2023	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.).

50

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.)

45 youth; 5 adults

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.

0.05

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, schools, in front of village hall, are all maintaining areas that are supporting monarch and pollinator growth.

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

Our youth environmental camp is very low cost to the public, and gives away tools to catch and observe butterflies. I do not know the income status of the kids that attended, but I believe the low cost of a 5-day camp for $20 allowed any child in the community to be able to attend. Having garden areas in public spaces, and near the community vegetable garden that is open access to the public, also opens our pollinator friendly areas to all members of the community regardless of socioeconomic status.

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

The local high school's environmental science class and conservation club brought to our attention the pledge, and showed us how many pollinator friendly activities are taking place within the community, and encouraged us to continue to take more each year.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

N/A

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

N/A

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.

Milkweed seeds.jpg

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

12

What species were collected or propagated?

Common milkweed, swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed

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

Seneca High School Environmental Science Class

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

Seneca High School Environmental Science Class was challenged with identifying and collecting various species of milkweed to be harvested, stratified and germinated. These seeds will be used for germination, and a plant giveaway in the Spring of 2024.

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.

Community Garden_1.jpg

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

Community Garden_2.jpg

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

Community Garden_3.jpg

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

Seneca Conservation in Action; Seneca Park Board; Girl Scouts

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

20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Seneca Park Board planted many flowering plants at the new community baseball diamonds. There are many pollinator pockets that are present in the landscaping, providing nectar producing plants to pollinators. There has also been a program to plant native trees in memorial to members of the town through the Seneca Park Board. Many of these species, such as many of the oak species, that have been planted, are plants that are beneficial as host plants for caterpillars of pollinators. Seneca High School Conservation in Action cares for and maintains 1 acre of native plants that has many different species of native plants, including four different species of milkweed.

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.

Garden_1.jpg

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

Garden_2.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)

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307 E. Scott Street, Seneca, IL, at Seneca High School

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

Seneca High School Conservation in Action Group

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.

0.5

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

N/A

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

0

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

N/A

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

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

150+

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

100

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

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Local sorority hosted a plant sale for mother's day, which included many native plants. We partnered with the sorority by hosting the event on village property and advertising the event through the village's resources.

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Village Hall Garden.png

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

315 N. Main Street, Seneca, IL

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

Girl Scouts and the Park Board

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.

.5

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)

2

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

2021. The lot is maintained consistently throughout the summer by Girl Scout volunteers and the village. Located on Main Street, it is consistently checked and maintained to assure it looks good. 50% of the lot is maintained as a garden/pollinator habitat.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Camp application.png

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

Camp picture.png

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

A summer environmental science camp focused on pollinators, native plants, and native habitats.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

5

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Seneca High School students were leaders Seneca Grade School Milton Pope Grade School Mazon, Verona, Kinsman Grade School Marseilles Grade School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

None. The focus was completely on the pollinators/monarchs.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

30 students

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

Seneca High School Conservation in Action Group

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

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0

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

N/A

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