Minnetonka Beach

Minnetonka Beach, MN

Mayor Joe Pagano

Pledge Summary

The City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach is a special lake community located in the western suburbs of Minneapolis. Surrounded by Minnesota's 9th largest lake, Lake Minnetonka, covering 14,528 acres, the City has a quaint village feel and is rich in history. With a strong commitment to the protection of City parks and public lands, the City Council and Park Commission fully supports initiatives that provide an ecosystem for beneficial insects and wildlife. The City is renewing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for 2025 to further engage our community and residents in building more pollinator-friendly habits throughout the Village. Monarch Pledge educational messaging will continue to be generated to residents via the City's newsletter, email blasts, educational signage, and mailing inserts. The Park Commission is engaged in promoting sustainable, pollinator-friendly gardens, organic lawncare, and selective mowing. Milkweed and nectar planting will continue to be encouraged both in public spaces and with residents own landscapes. The City's monarch and pollinator-friendly garden is in its third year of establishment at Lafayette Park complete with a beautiful pollinator garden educational sign for trail walkers to see at the garden's edge. As a community engagement effort, packets of Asclepias tuberosa seeds were distributed to residents for their own gardens with detailed planting instructions. Additional native milkweed and pollinator plantings have been added and maintained at the Swim Beach Park Garden. A new educational, podium style sign about protecting shoreline habitat was created for the Swim Beach Park shoreline where the extensive native plants are. Minnetonka Beach City Hall has seen the addition of monarch and pollinator-friendly plants as well. Plans are also underway to add native plants at the City's northern shoreline of Lake Minnetonka as part of a shoreline restoration project. As a former Park Commission Chair, Mayor Pagano fully endorses continued efforts to raise awareness of the continued decreased population of the western monarch butterfly. Education and project initiatives in Minnetonka Beach will continue to provide vital habitat to assist in saving the monarch butterfly.

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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Joe Pagano	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Joe Pagano	2025	3/26/2025	Signatories
Mayor of The City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach Joe Pagano	2023	3/9/2023	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.).

535

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.)

75

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.

1

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.

RESIDENCES, PUBLIC PARK, SWIM BEACH PARK, WALKING TRAILS

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

DO NOT HAVE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN OUR CITY

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

HELP SAVE MONARCH DECLINING POPULATION BY EDUCATING COMMUNITY WITH WAYS TO DO SO

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?

PODIUM STYLE INSTALLED EDUCATIONAL SIGNS AT TWO LOCATIONS WITH DIFFERENT TOPICS. PROVIDED RESIDENTS WITH MILKWEED SEEDS, PHOTOS IN RESIDENT NEWSLETTER TO SHOW RESULTS OF POLLINATOR GARDINING AND NATIVE PLANT USE

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

WE CAN SEE RESULTS AT SWIM BEACH PARK OF POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY NATIVE PLANTINGS NEAR SHORELINE AND EDUCATION

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.)

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

CITY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION AND PHOTOS TO RESIDENTS

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.

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

CITY'S PARK COMMISSION, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR PLUS PUBLIC WORKS COLLABORATE ON VARIOUS EFFORTS TO DO THE PHYSICAL WORK TO SHOW RESIDENTS THEIR EFFORTS IN POLLINAOTR-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

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

MOWING AND NOT MOWING, PROPER CITY PARK AND PUBLIC SPACES CLEANUP AS NOT TO DISTURB SOME IDEAL HABITATS, PLANTING EFFORTS

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 CITY'S POLLINATOR GARDEN IS FRONT AND CENTER IN THE CITY. CAN SEE IT BY CAR, PEDESTRIANS ON THE TRAILS IN FRONT OR IT. IT IS LOCATED ON BUSY SHORELINE DRIVE AND LAKE ROAD IN LAFAYETTE PARK

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

SAME AS ACTION #4

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

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

SAME AS ACTION #4

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

SAME AS #4

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Shoreline Habitat educational sign swim beach park Vacker Signs 2025.pdf

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

Pollinator garden sign 2024.jpg

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

3

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

IMAGES OF SIGNS UPLOADED ABOVE. VACKER SIGNS IN ROSEVILLE, MN CREATED THE SIGNS

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