Village of La Grange

La Grange, IL

President Mark Kuchler

Pledge Summary

La Grange is a village in northeastern Illinois with a population of roughly 16,2000. The village is located west of Chicago and 40 years as a tree city usa, with heavily tree lined streets. President Mark Kuchler has committed to saving the monarch buttfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayor's Monarch Please and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the Village.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President Mark Kuchler	2026	12/8/2025	
President Mark Kuchler	2025	3/17/2025	Signatories

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President Mark Kuchler	2024	12/1/2023	Signatories
President Mark Kuchler	2023	3/20/2023	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.).

45

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.)

12

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.

Garden installed near a historic train station in an area of high foot traffic. It includes informational signage and an inviting brick walkway.

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

This remains a work in progress, though some areas have been preliminarily identified as potential suitable locations for gardens.

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

Support for the Monarch; ability to provide educational and beautification benefits as well.

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?

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Sharing of nearby examples of installations that improve habitat. Images and case studies on installations that have been constructed in concert with development/redevelopment.

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

Native plantings, in environments such as rain gardens, have also been explored for their potential application in various locations.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

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)

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

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

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.

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.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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

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.

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

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.

Stone Butterfly Garden.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)

41°48'50.0"N 87°52'42.8"W

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

Consulted with local nursery on plant selection.

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.

.01

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.

The efforts in this category were conducted through the efforts of the Village's Environmental Quality Commission.

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

The Environmental Quality Commission has had significant involvement in regional efforts to improve environmental conditions. This includes the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Greenest Region Compact. Within the framework of these initiatives, alternatives to traditional landscape maintenance and planting programs have been reviewed, with some alternatives identified. Work continues to determine appropriate recommendations that can be further implemented into practices and requirements.

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.

NativePlantTour Flyer.pdf

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

Through the Village's Environmental Quality Commission, and in cooperation with neighbor La Grange Park, a native plant tour was hosted to showcase and extol the benefits of native plantings. This multi-location tour shows the type of installations and varieties of plantings that homeowners can consider when landscaping their home.

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