Village of La Grange

La Grange, IL

President Mark Kuchler

Pledge Summary

The Village of La Grange recognizes the value of supporting pollinators including the monarch butterfly. Through efforts such as installing a pollinator garden at the historic Stone Avenue station, landscaping practices, or through partnership on an annual native plant bike tour, the Village continues to strive towards an environment supportive of the butterfly and all pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Action Items

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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.).

75

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.)

10

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.

.5

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.

Residents continue to learn and plant more native plants (including milkweed) in their gardens. Additional efforts to plant native plants in Village owned properties continues.

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?

Supporting the Monarch Butterfly, utilizing additional native plants, and educational opportunities.

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?

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?

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Recently, our Environmental Quality Commission engaged the University of Illinois Extension to host a presentation regarding native plants - one of which was the use of milkweed.

Selected Action Items

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.

Whats the Buzz about Native Plants.pdf

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

Native Plant Tour - 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 the benefits of native plantings and connect individuals interested in native plants. This multi-location tour shows the type of installations and varieties of plantings that homeowners can consider when landscaping their home. The Environmental Quality Commission in partnership with Go Green Greater La Grange, hosted the U of I Master Gardeners to educate the community about the benefits of planting native plants including milkweed and other plants that support butterfly's including the Monarch.

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?

The Village's Environmental Quality Commission worked with the La Grange Park Sustainability Commission and Go Green Greater La Grange and the La Grange Business Association to promote these efforts

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

20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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Through educational efforts such as the Native Plant tour, What's the Buzz About Native Plants event, and tabling at the farmers market, information is conveyed to residents. Residents continue to learn and plant more native plants (including milkweed) in their gardens. The Village continues planning efforts to add more plants.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2

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

One sign is displayed at the Lyons Township High School and another is at a resident's home. Additional efforts are being made to install signage at the Village Butterfly Garden at Stone Avenue Station.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Recent conversations with developers have included opportunities for street scaping that incorporates stormwater best management practices including native plants that would serve as Monarch butterfly habitat.

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?

Conversations have begun amongst commissioners on the Village's Environmental Quality Commission.

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

In progress.

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

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It is anticipated that conversations will be ongoing into the next year.

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