Village of Flossmoor

Flossmoor, IL

Mayor Michelle Nelson

Pledge Summary

The Village of Flossmoor, a picturesque suburb of Chicago with just under 10,000 residents, is proud to combine its vibrant history with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. Known for its tree-lined streets, historic homes, excellent schools, diverse and inclusive population, extensive sculpture garden, and sprawling parks, Flossmoor is dedicated to advancing green initiatives through its active Green Commission. In 2024, Flossmoor celebrated its Centennial year with events that honored our past while emphasizing the importance of a sustainable future. As part of these celebrations, we distributed over 100 milkweed plants during our summer Chamber Night event, encouraging residents to create pollinator-friendly spaces in their yards. The Village also partnered with Homewood-Flossmoor High School to support its organic garden. The garden features native plants, including milkweed, which provide critical habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. This collaboration fosters biodiversity while offering students hands-on learning opportunities about conservation and sustainable practices. Flossmoor's ongoing environmental efforts include replacing the village's tree canopy by planting hundreds of trees annually, hosting an annual recycling event, maintaining a free seed library, discouraging vehicle idling, and using native plantings in newly landscaped public areas. In 2022, the village installed a butterfly garden in a local park and planted over 400 parkway trees with the help of a generous grant and dedicated volunteers. In 2024, the Green Commission, the Mayor, and a local community group expanded the pollinator garden. Mayor Nelson remains committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, continuing her leadership in signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The Village looks forward to working closely with the Green Commission and residents to expand pollinator habitats and inspire environmental stewardship throughout Flossmoor.

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.
- 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 /

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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.
- 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

- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michelle Nelson	2026	4/28/2026	
Mayor Michelle Nelson	2024	4/10/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michelle Nelson	2023	2/17/2023	
Mayor Michelle Nelson	2022	3/28/2022	Signatories
Mayor Paul Braun	2021	2/1/2021	

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.).

9000

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

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none, please write 0.” (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

200

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.

.25

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.

rights-of way, community garden, parks

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

We leverage the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities by creating inclusive volunteer opportunities through the Green Commission, welcoming participants of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds. By distributing free resources like milkweed plants at community events and collaborating with local schools and organizations, we reduce barriers and empower residents to create pollinator-friendly spaces in their neighborhoods. These efforts foster equity, environmental stewardship, and meaningful connections within Flossmoor’s diverse community.

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

Our community’s motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge stems from a deep commitment to environmental sustainability and protecting vulnerable species like the monarch butterfly, which remains endangered. We recognize the vital role monarchs play in pollination and the broader ecosystem, and we understand that creating and maintaining habitats is an ongoing responsibility. While we’ve made progress through initiatives like planting native species, distributing milkweed, and engaging volunteers of all ages, we know this work is never done. Flossmoor remains dedicated to expanding these efforts year after year, ensuring a lasting impact for the monarchs and future generations.

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?

Our paper newsletter, website, and electronic newsletter have been invaluable resources for sharing information, promoting events, and engaging the community in our efforts to protect monarchs and pollinators. Deepening our working relationships with community partners like the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Southland Green Committee, and

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Flossmoor Public Library will help expand equitable engagement and access to high-quality, usable nature.

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

This year, our OAKtoberfest festival served as a cornerstone for our monarch butterfly conservation efforts, combining educational outreach with community celebration. By day, we hosted interactive workshops and activities focused on green initiatives, partnering with organizations like the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners, and Thorn Creek Audubon Society. These collaborations helped us educate attendees about the importance of pollinators, native plants, and sustainable practices, furthering our commitment to protecting the monarch butterfly and fostering environmental stewardship within our community.

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):

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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.

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).

Our paper newsletter, website, and electronic newsletter have been invaluable resources for sharing information, promoting events, and engaging the community in our efforts to protect monarchs and pollinators.

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

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

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This year, we engaged with a wide range of community members, from school-aged children to seniors, to promote the importance of planting pollinators. Through events like our summer Chamber Night and OAKtoberfest festival, we provided educational outreach and distributed milkweed plants to encourage residents to create pollinator-friendly habitats. By tailoring our efforts to all ages—such as incorporating hands-on learning opportunities for children and informative workshops for adults—we ensured that everyone could actively support monarch butterfly conservation.

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.

Village of Flossmoor Department of Public Works

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

The Department of Public Works has been working with the Green Commission to plant more native species than annual plantings to encourage pollinators.

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.

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

Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners, and Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

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

We worked with these groups on our nature focused fall event, OAKtoberfest.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

30

What species were collected or propagated?

milkweed along with other native seeds.

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

Homewood Flossmoor High School Friends of Rachel Club.

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

We hosted a milkweed collection at a local golf course with members of the Green Commission and the High school students.

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)

We have pollinators planted at Village Hall located at 2800 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422

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

The Green Commission and the Department of Public Works.

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?

The Green Commission

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

75

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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The Green Commission, Department of Public Works, and Jack and Jill of America, Inc worked together to expand the pollinator garden in Leavitt Park. This community effort will help pollinators for years to come.

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)

1

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

The signs alert the community that pollinators are present, along with tags naming the specific plants.

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

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