Village of Homer Glen

Homer Glen, IL

Mayor George Yukich

Pledge Summary

The Village of Homer Glen is a growing community located in Chicago's Metropolitan Region in Will County Illinois. Having incorporated in 2001 with the motto "Community and Nature in Harmony," our community continuously strives to maintain open space, preserve the unique rural character, and safeguard natural resources. The Village encourages community involvement in order to maintain and cultivate a balance of family, agriculture, business, environment, and cultural diversity for present and future generations.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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 Christina Neitzke-Troike	2026	3/2/2026	
Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troike	2025	2/19/2025	Signatories
Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troike	2024	3/15/2024	Signatories
Mayor George Yukich	2023	4/3/2023	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

24000

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.)

4000 youth vs. 20000 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.

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.

residential properties (private), community gardens, natural areas, parks

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

We partner with the Homer Glen Womens Club to distribute free milkweed seed packets and have a community herb garden in our Heritage Park

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

Our Environment Committee's goals and objectives align closely with the work done at the NWF and we have historically paired with other community organizations on events and education programs, like milkweed seed distribution in our Village.

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?

I enjoyed the frequent email updates on events, information and other opportunities. Through these emails, we learned about the Garden for Wildlife INC free native plants. We applied and were approved to receive the donation garden!

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

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Our community's involvement in activities and education to support our pollinators has been an ongoing effort since incorporation. We have a large number of residents, committees, staff members, elected officials and sister government agencies that have played a large role in these efforts.

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:

March 22, 2023

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

RESOLUTION NO. 23-004 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

R23-004 In Support of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.)

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

Communication.jpg

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

Green Pastel Join Our Community Instagram Post (1).pdf

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

Kite Fest.jpg

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

The Environment Committee has an annual Community and Nature in Harmony Award to recognize individuals, business', groups, or community organizations, who through the creation of wildlife habitat or preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of land within the Village of Homer Glen, has demonstrated a commitment to the environment and, in the process, significantly contributed to community pride. Often times, we see our winners maintain their own pollinator habitats. These award have been presented since 2003. The Village of Homer Glen paired with the Homer Glen Junior Womens Club again this year to purchase and distribute milkweed seed packets to residents at our annual Kite Festival. We have also pushed out photos and information on the pollinators seen in our community gardens to encourage people to explore our parks and consider planting their own habitats.

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?

Jennifer Vittori and her amazing (!!!) Parks Staff; Homer Glen Environment Committee; Homer Glen Parks Committee; Homer Glen Junior Womens Club; Garden for Wildlife by National Wildlife Federation (newly awarded); Village Staff and Elected Officials; our residents

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Jennifer Vittori and our Parks staff does an amazing job at maintaining our community gardens, Heritage Park 319 Grant Area, and native sensory garden where we have an abundance of milkweed and other native plantings to support our pollinators. We also hosted a seed planting event in the Spring to get our community planting beds going with milkweeds, other flowers and a large variety of herbs. Jennifer Vittori applied for the free plants from the Garden for Wildlife and is coordinating plant delivery and plantings now that we have been award the free plants.

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