Village of Homer Glen

Homer Glen, IL

Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troike

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 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

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.

Village parks, ComED ROW, private residential properties

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

Funding for our events like plantings in Village parks or milkweed seed handouts are free.

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

Environmental stewardship is a founding principle for the Village of Homer Glen and since incorporation we have continued to these efforts, many of which align with the Mayor Monarch pledge.

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 appreciate frequent email updates for information and opportunities but I also enjoying browsing the website reports.

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

Part of our efforts this year were made possible by Garden for Wildlife by National Wildlife Federation grant, which we had learned about through an email blast from Mayors

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Monarch Pledge!

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 13, 2024

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

Proclamation in Support of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge COMPLETE.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.

2024 CNH Award Nomination Form_202403081732013824.pdf

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

We post on the Village Website and send out details in digital backpacks to school. At Village Board meetings, our Environment Committee chair is a trustee who will give report son upcoming events.

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.

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Forest Preserve District Homer Glen Letter of Support 04.11.2024.pdf

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

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

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

emVSD_FQ.jpg

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

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

Seedlings 2024 (1)_202405071603407699.pdf

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

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

Big Butterfly 2.JPG

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

Big Butterfly.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)

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Shortly before the 2023 reports, we won the Garden for Wildlife by National Wildlife Federation grant for a wildlife garden which we have sinc eplanted in Heritage PArk. The location is significant because Heritage Park already has 40 acres of restored native prairie. These new plugs have been planted in our butterfly sensory garden which surrounds our raised bed planters that we plant herbs, sesory plants, and milkeweed in. We felt this tied in beautifully with this area of our park and helps attract pollinators to the herbs.

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

Homer Glen Environment Committee, Homer Glen Park Staff, Garden for Wildlife by National Wildlife Federation, and Homer Glen Junior Women's Club

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.

0.12

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