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 2026

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

- 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.

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

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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.).

2400

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.)

400

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.

0

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.

None, but existing habitats were maintained

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

We are able to fund Milkweed seed and tree seedling giveaways so our residents do not have to pay for these materials.

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 Mayors Monarch pledge. We had been funding milkweed see handouts with another community organization where we were introduced to this pledge. Our Village had also been staffing more professionals with backgrounds in Horticulture and/or Arboriculture which has been really helpful in managing existing natural areas and setting goals for potential expansion.

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?

The email updates for this program and other NWF programs and grants have been super helpful. Now that our Environment Committee is more active on social media, I will be

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looking for other sharable resources and information to post.

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

Staff and our Environment Committee would have liked to expand more native planting areas in the Village but this year had been especially busy for the Planning & Zoning Staff (where the planners act as staff liaisons and chair to the Environment Committee) and our Park's Department has also been extremely busy and understaffed this year. Our Environment Committee also shifted our focus for around 18 months to amended our tree preservation ordinance and spend most of our time and energy with that.

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:

05.27.26

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

A Proclamation Dedicating June 2026 as Mayors' Monarch Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge 06.2026.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Complete Packet Mayors Monarch Month Proclamation 2026.pdf

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

DSC_3188.JPG

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

DSC_3276.JPG

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

IMG_6352.jpeg

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

IMG_6358.jpeg

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

Kite Fest EC info table 5.9.26.jpg

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

PXL_20260509_163742851.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

300

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

1000

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

Homer Glen Junior Womens Club

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.

Monarch Butterfly emerged from village hall Sept 17 2026.jpg

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

Monarch Butterfly from village hall release Sept 17 2026.jpg

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

Monarch caterpillar forming chrysallis Sept 2026.jpg

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

Monarch caterpillar on leaf Sept 2026.jpg

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

Monarch caterpillar Sept 2026.jpg

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

milkweed.jpg

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

Heritage Park Planting bed map (1).pdf

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

Photo Jun 10 2026, 08 33 18.pdf

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

Photo Jun 17 2026, 16 37 44.pdf

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

Photo Jun 17 2026, 16 38 20.pdf

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

Photo Jun 17 2026, 16 39 00.pdf

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

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Planting bed photos May 15 2026_2_DK.jpg

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

Planting bed photos May 15 2026_3_DK.jpg

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

Planting bed photos May 15 2026_5_DK.jpg

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

Planting bed photos May 15 2026_6_DK.jpg

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

Planting bed photos Oct 20 2026_2_DK.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)

Village of Homer Glen Village Hall at Heritage Park, 14240 W 151st Street; We had restored 40 acres of golf course into a native prairie at this park, so it is most fitting that any additional pollinator plantings be added to a more accessible area in the active core of this park in the raised planting beds. Our parks staff also plant milkweed around Village Hall where we found caterpillars and our planner took one in and released the Monarch butterfly.

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, and Homer Glen JuniorWomen'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.

0.1

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you

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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.

CNH Facebook 07.06.26.png

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

Homer Fest facebook 06.30.26.png

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

Kite Fest facebook 05.12.26.png

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

Monarch Facebook Screenshot 09.04.26.png

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

Monarch Pages from Staff Scoop 09.18.26.pdf

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

pre-Rasied planting bed event facebook 05.18.26.png

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

Rasied planting bed event facebook 05.18.26.png

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

Rasied planting bed facebook 06.19.26.png

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

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Tabling facebook 06.30.26.png

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

July 27 2026 Nancy shade garden_1.jpg

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

July 29 2026 Sandy Vail garden_1.jpg

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

July 29 2026 Sandy Vail garden_2.jpg

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

July 29 2026 Sandy Vail garden_3.jpg

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

July 29 2026 Sandy Vail garden_6.jpg

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

Earth Day clean up FB 04.28.26.png

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

We use Facebook and events for these communication efforts. Our Environment Committee also provides handouts and trifolds with information at various events throughout the year.

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