Village of Oak Park

Oak Park, IL

President Vicki Scaman

Pledge Summary

Oak Park is a thriving community of about 54,500 people located immediately west of the City of Chicago and known for its architectural heritage and diverse population. Within its 4.5 square miles live one of the region's most diverse mixes of cultures, races, ethnicities, professions, lifestyles, religions, ages and incomes. Our community climate action, resiliency, and sustainability plan, Climate Ready Oak Park, commits to enhancing or protecting thirty percent of our community land for biodiversity.

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

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

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
President Vicki Scaman	2026	3/27/2026	
Village President Vicki Scaman	2025	3/7/2025	Signatories

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President Vicki Scaman	2024	3/15/2024	Signatories
President Vicki Scaman	2023	4/28/2023	Leadership Circle

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.).

30000

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.)

0

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.

0.14

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.

residences, public spaces

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

The Native Plant Sale which the Village supported was advertised through Climate Ready Community Outreach to Oak Park, a local network of organizations which focuses on outreach to marginalized communities.

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

The community values biodiversity and wants to support pollinators. This is reflected in the community Climate Ready Oak Park plan: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b4f6e9bdfd864b31b28072156d6d6bcf

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The guide with examples of how communities can achieve various actions was helpful, and it sparked some ideas.

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

Our projects this year related to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge included a Monarch Butterfly Month proclamation, communications about National Pollinator Week and a bioblitz, maintenance of an existing rain garden, and completion of a nighttime light environment assessment. The Village also provided $5,000 total towards a 75% discount to Oak Park residents who purchased monarch garden and rain garden kits through the West Cook Wild Ones Native Plant Sale. The sale supported 150 Oak Park households. The amount of monarch habitat created is estimated based on the number of garden kits (15 plants each) that the Village supported. The number of youth reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is unknown.

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:

May 7, 2024

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

Monarch Butterfly Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterfly Month Proclamation 2024 Signed.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.

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Facebook - Monarch Blitz.PNG

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

Plant Sale Discount - e-news.pdf

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

Village Manager's Report - National Pollinator Week.pdf

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

This action relates to our efforts of communicating to the public about National Pollinator Week, the Wings of Dreams Bioblitz, and the West Cook Wild Ones Native Plant Sale. Communication was shared via the Village's social media and e-news, and among network emails including West Cook Wild Ones (https://westcook.wildones.org/) and Climate Ready Community Outreach to Oak Park (https://www.greencommunityconnections.org/climate-ready-coop).

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.

Public Works butterfly garden web page.PNG

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

rain garden sign.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)

A butterfly garden was created at the Oak Park Public Works Center in 2021. The address is 201 South Blvd, Oak Park, IL 60302. A video about the garden can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHeE03HucUo.

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

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The project was funded by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) as part of the Green Infrastructure Program.

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

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.

Plant Sale Discount - e-news - sold out.pdf

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

Plant Sale Discount - e-news.pdf

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

Plant Sale Discount - shopify.pdf

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

2,250

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

150

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

West Cook Wild Ones - https://westcook.wildones.org/

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

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

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Facebook - Monarch Blitz.PNG

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

Village Manager's Report - National Pollinator Week.pdf

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).

0

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

N/A

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

The Village of Oak Park shared information on the Illinois Monarch Project's Wings of Dreams Bioblitz via social media and the Village Manager's Report which is emailed to subscribers. The number of individuals from Oak Park who participated is unknown.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

The Village hired Ken Walczak, an Adler Planetarium Senior Manager, DarkSky International Board Member, and IES Associate Member to complete an assessment of the nighttime light environment in Oak Park. He presented his findings to the Village's Environment & Energy Commission, which is made up of 9 volunteer residents.

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.

In 2024 the nighttime lighting environment assessment, report, and presentation to the Environment & Energy Commission was completed. The report includes recommendations for ordinance updates. Ordinance changes have not yet been completed in 2024.

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