Village of Oak Park

Oak Park, IL

Village President Vicki Scaman

Pledge Summary

The Village of Oak Park is doing its part to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic North American species whose populations have declined dramatically in recent years. Village officials have joined hundreds of communities across the country in a pledge to create a healthy habitat that will aid monarch butterflies on their annual migration across the continent. In addition to issuing a proclamation to raise awareness of the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat, the Village plants native milkweed and nectar plants on public properties when appropriate across the community, including traffic diverters, cul-de-sacs, medians and planters. The Village's Public Works Center is also home to a certified Monarch butterfly waystation. According to the National Wildlife Federation, monarch butterflies numbered around 1 billion in 1996. Today, their numbers have declined significantly as a result of numerous threats, particularly the loss of habitat due to cropland conversion, urban development, and agricultural practices.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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
President Vicki Scaman	2024	3/15/2024	Signatories

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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.

0.09

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

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

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Sample programming and educational/promotional materials for bioblitz events would be helpful as we hope to expand youth engagement opportunities.

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

The Village provided $5,000 total towards a $20 discount for Oak Park residents who purchased native plants and monarch garden kits through the West Cook Wild Ones Native Plant Sale. The sale supported 244 Oak Park households. The amount of monarch habitat created is estimated based on the number of plants sold (636) that the Village supported. The amount of additional Monarch habitat created is likely higher due to passage of the parkway ordinance allowing and encouraging the installation of native gardens on our parkways. We also manage a rain garden grant and reimbursement program called Rainscapes that, despite not being included originally as part of the pledge, has helped expand native pollinator habitat, particularly for low-income households. The number of youth reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is unknown.

Selected Action Items

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

ORD 25-138 S 031825 Signed Ordinance.pdf

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

We engaged with community organizations like Oak Park Climate Action Network and West Cook Wild Ones, as well as the Environment and Energy Commission, to develop this ordinance

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

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.

Completed on March 18, 2025, the parkway ordinance (ORD 25-138 S 031825) allows for the planting and maintenance of native prairie habitat on parkways abutting private properties throughout the Village of Oak Park.

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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.

WCWO native plant sale_discount.png

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

WOWC agreement 2025.pdf

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

Facebook_announcement_1.png

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

Invoice-VOP-WestCookWildOnesSpring2025.pdf

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

636

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

244

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

West Cook Wild Ones

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 11, 2025

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

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Monarch Butterfly Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025_monarch_proclamation_sig.pdf

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

ORD 25-138 S 031825 Signed Ordinance.pdf

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

Oak Park Climate Action Network; West Cook Wild Ones

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

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.

Completed on March 18, 2025, the parkway ordinance (ORD 25-138 S 031825) allows for the planting and maintenance of native prairie habitat on parkways abutting private properties throughout the Village of Oak Park. The ordinance officially designates native gardens as those containing at least 70% of plant species native to Northeastern Illinois.

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