Village of Elwood

Elwood, IL

Village President Doug Jenco

Pledge Summary

The Village of Elwood is a small farming community located in Illinois with a population of approximately 2200. The Village of Elwood has an award-winning Children's Garden which is visited annually by thousands of area citizens. Within the garden, we commit to plant locally appropriate milkweed and additional blooming nectar species to enhance our already existing hundreds of blooming nectar species both annuals and perennials which are available to feed adult monarchs.

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Doug Jenco	2023	3/17/2023	
Village President Doug Jenco	2022	3/25/2022	
Village President Doug Jenco	2021	2/5/2021	

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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.).

200

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.)

100 youth and 100 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.

parks

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

events

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

habitat education

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?

grants

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

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population in our area appears to be growing.

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:

April 5, 2023

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2023-04-05 - Proclamation - Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

The Children's Garden Village staff are cleaning, planning, and purchasing additional plants for the garden. This is done annually and maintained year round.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

037.JPG

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

018.JPG

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

072.JPG

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

908.JPG

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

838.JPG

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

Gardner's host multiple events annually. Community Planting Day, Community Fall Fest

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

500

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Bird house wall to provide beautiful and natural habitat for the birds.

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

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 Elwood's Children's Garden for more than 25 years!

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Encourage residents to plant pollinators

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds

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awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Engage the Community to assist in the Children's Garden continued growth and development

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