Village of Valley Stream

Valley Stream, NY

Mayor Edwin Fare

Pledge Summary

Valley Stream is a village just outside of New York City with a population of about 40,000. The Village is on the south shore of Long Island and is home to over 100 acres of park space in addition to a State park. Mayor Fare is passionate about our environment and understands the importance of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators to our ecosystem. The signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge is a commitment with our residents to educate, engage and be active in building more pollinator habitat throughout our Village.

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.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Edwin Fare	2024	2/14/2024	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.).

30

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.)

10

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.

.05

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, residential yards, community garden

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

I don't think we have used it this way. I can think about how we can do so in 2025.

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

The importance of the project to our environment. A collective effort that can have a big impact.

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?

No new resources needed.

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

More work on the horizon.

Selected Action Items

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.

https://www.liherald.com/stories/pollinator-garden-community-garden-valley-stream-jonathan-herrera,211337 Beautification Committee and Boy Scout Troop. ReWild Long Island and growing list of future community garden members.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Growing partnership with ReWild Long Island and landscape architect Spadefoot Design to incorporate monarch habitat at parks and community gardens. Logical step to advise new development to include that as well.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

2

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

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We hosted Master Gardener lectures on various topics including the importance of native plantings for monarchs. This was done in cooperation with our local Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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:

We have not issued a proclamation yet. We plan to do so in 2025 as part of our centennial.

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

Valley Stream's Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

POLLINATOR WEEK PROCLAMATION.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.)

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

We have not completed this action. We have been focused on building a partnership with ReWild Long Island who manages a native planting at one of our parks and is a partner in a our new community garden. In 2025 we plan to release in print and on social media, information to encouraged our residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

This action did not involve community organizations

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

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Internally discussions were had with our Parks Dept about creating no-mow areas in which we would plant milkweed and native plantings to provide safe habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. We plan to revisit this for 2025.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Monarch Sign.jpeg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

This sign was designed by an Eagle Scout candidate and made by the Village's sign shop. This will be located at the pollinator waystation next to your community garden. The sign provides extensive information on pollinators, plants, etc.

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

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

seed packets are swapped all year long

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

25

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

A seed library is hosted at our library by a member of the Beautification Committee. Throughout the year people can swap seeds.

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.

Garden Painting Project 1.jpg

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

Beautification Committee, SPARC, ReWild Long Island, High School District

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).

20

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).

The art project was not implemented but the location and content was discussed. We initially painted the wall to cover up graffiti (see photo). This year we plan to implement a monarch mural to highlight the importance of monarch and pollinator conservation.

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)

It is located at our community garden. https://www.liherald.com/stories/pollinator-garden-community-garden-valley-stream-jonathan-herrera,211337

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

Mayor, Boy Scout Troop, Beautification Committee, landscape architect

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.

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