Village of Irvington

Irvington, NY

Mayor Jonathan Siegel

Pledge Summary

Irvington is a small, suburban village located north of New York City. The Village consists of 6,500 residents, but also includes several hundred acres of wooded parkland. The Village and its many volunteers have long supported pollinator pathways. Volunteers have also created and placed no-mow informational signs around the Village to educate the local community about the monarch butterfly habitat.

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.
- 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.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jonathan Siegel	2025	2/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Jonathan Siegel	2024	3/4/2024	Signatories

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.).

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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.)

8

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.

0.01

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.

Our demonstration garden is along the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) south of Main Street in Irvington. The coordinates are 41°02'16.2"N 73°52'00.6"W, south of the ventilation tower along the wall with the Irvington Estates cooperative.

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

The OCA is a 26.5-mile long beloved open space which provides the public with a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature. The scenic path over the underground aqueduct winds through urban centers and small communities. The OCA is open to everyone including local commuters, tourists, walkers, runners, biking and bird-watchers.

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

Residents' concern about the plight of the monarch butterfly was the driving force of this effort.

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?

Support from the Local and State governments are most helpful. Volunteers do not have the equipment needed to fight non-native invasive species and defend the pollinator friendly species on their own.

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

We are facing some significant challenges from Trees of Heaven and the Spotted Lantern Flies along the aqueduct. We are working with the State government to mitigate their

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impact.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

MMP Action 5 Responses.pdf

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

13 Irvington Green Policy Task Force (GPTF) Garden Club of Irvington Peter Strom, Native Plant Gardener and Horticulturist O'Hara Nature Center (ONC) Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) Greater Irvington Land Trust (GILT) NY State (NYS) Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) NYS Flora Atlas Irvington Department of Public Works (DPW) Pollinator Pathway Healthy Yards Bedford 2030

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

The GPTF, a volunteer committee within the Village of Irvington, spearheaded the Village's efforts with respect to this pledge. The OCA is a 26.5-mile long beloved open space which provides the public with a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature. The scenic path over the underground aqueduct winds through urban centers and small communities. It passes near numerous historic sites, preserves, a museum highlighting the construction of the OCA, and many homes. The OCA is open to everyone including local commuters and tourists who use it for walking, running, biking, and bird-watching. GPTF Leaders coordinated with Irvington's O'Hara Nature Center, Pollinator Pathway, Friends of OCA, the NYS Flora Atlas, Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030 to carefully select local ecotypes (Ecoregion-59) to follow the NYS Parks guidelines and provide a variety of plants for pollinators that bloom at different times throughout the year to ensure an abundance of nutrition. We also considered soil, sun, and shade conditions. The projected benefits will help put back habitat and food for native pollinators. Volunteers planted 12 new plants of Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly weed) and are currently collecting and planting new seeds to further spread the plant for next year. The clearing of non-native invasives (NNI's) was done under the supervision of Peter Strom, Native Plant Gardener and Horticulturist on March 16, 2024. GPTF and the Garden Club of Irvington volunteers also removed non-native invasive plants and planted native ones during I Love My Park Day on May 4, 2024. Volunteers are continuously maintaining the community pollinator garden, and thus aiding monarchs to thrive. Starting January 2024, GPTF has partnered with the NYS Parks and Lower Hudson PRISM staff, to address the issue of infestation of

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Ailanthus altissima on the Old Croton Aqueduct in Irvington. On September 5, 2024, Ryan L. McClean, Ecological Stewardship Program Manager of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, conducted partial girdling on 66 trees and the tree removal is scheduled for November 2024. The removal of the Trees of heaven will significantly help the OCA community pollinator garden thrive as it will no longer suffer from sooty mold . The GPTF provided and continues to provide the public with educational materials (electronic and printed versions) prior to, during, and after the event. Specifically, from the Green Policy Task Force, O'Hara Nature Center, Pollinator Pathway, Friends of OCA, the NY State Flora Atlas, Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030.

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.

MMP Action 12 Responses.pdf

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)

The Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) is a 26.5-mile long beloved open space which provides the public with a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature. The scenic path over the underground aqueduct winds through urban centers and small communities. It passes near numerous historic sites, preserves, a museum highlighting the construction of the OCA, and many homes. The OCA is open to everyone including local commuters and tourists who use it for walking, running, biking, and bird-watching. Our demonstration garden is along the OCA south of Main Street in Irvington. The coordinates are 41°02'16.2"N 73°52'00.6"W, south of the ventilation tower along the wall with the Irvington Estates cooperative.

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

The effort involved first clearing non-native invasives (NNI's) and then restoring the area with pollinator-friendly species. The Village received permission for the NNI removal from the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The clearing of NNI's was done in coordination with the Irvington Green Policy Task Force (GPTF) under the supervision of Peter Strom, Native Plant Gardener and Horticulturist, on March 16, 2024. The GPTF leaders further coordinated with: Irvington's O'Hara Nature Center (ONC), The Greater Irvington Land Trust (GILT) Pollinator Pathway, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (FOCA), the New York State Flora Atlas, Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030 to carefully select local ecotypes (Ecoregion-59) to follow the NYS Parks guidelines and provide a variety of plants for pollinators that bloom at different times throughout the year to ensure an abundance of nutrition. We also considered soil, sun, and

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shade conditions. The projected benefits will help put back habitat and food for native pollinators. With tools on loan from the Village's ONC, the GPTF and a group of 35 active volunteers cleared an open space along the OCA south of Main Street in Irvington on March 16, 2024. The specific location was southwest of the ventilation tower along the privately owned fences. The hands-on engagement with the community helped educate and create awareness of the need and benefits of NNI removal and planting of natives to regenerate biodiversity. The Village of Irvington, Department of Public Works provided hauling services for the many bags of NNI's collected. Under the direction of the GPTF, the Village provides the public with educational materials (electronic and printed versions) prior to, during, and after the event. Specifically, from the Green Policy Task Force, O'Hara Nature Center, Pollinator Pathway, Friends of OCA, the NY State Flora Atlas, Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030.

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.

0.010

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:

September 3, 2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day.docx

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