Village of Irvington

Irvington, NY

Mayor Jonathan Siegel

Pledge Summary

Irvington is a suburban community located approximately 20 miles from New York City. Irvington's Mayor, Jonathan Siegel, has committed to monarch protection by taking the pledge and dedicating resources to significant actions.

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

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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
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.).

110

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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.)

3

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.

0.1

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.

Roadside (by the library), parks, front garden of Historical Society on Main Street

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

N/A

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

To educate the community

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?

less of these questions

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

We did the best we could in what has been a busy year. One of us planted their own pollinator garden at their house and hoping it survives the winter after a rather dry summer.

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.

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Date of Proclamation:

September 15,2025

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge 2025.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

The Irvington Historical Society - Vickar Garden Restoration

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

11

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Historical Society's Board member Joan Nelson reached out to the Land Committee of the Irvington Green Team asking for assistance with the maintenance of the gardens at the Irvington Historical Society. The Committee enthusiastically agreed to help restore the gardens, which were overrun by several non-native invasive plants such as English ivy, porcelain berry, and vinca. Leola Specht, Joan Nelson, Jasena Sareil, and Dominique Barber met on August 5 to start the invasives removal on the left side of the building. They were joined by an enthusiastic young neighbor Matthew Schellati who saw them working and wanted to help. It was a lot of hard work, but it paid off. With much of the overgrowth and trash removed, and a temporary fix to the broken statue in the garden, the area looked more organized, inviting and comfortable. The removal of the vines allowed for more air and water to reach the plants that were lying underneath. Off to a good start. The second meet up was on August 29 with Marion Osmun joining Jasena and Leola from the Green

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Team crew to remove invasive Vinca from the front garden and trim some of the shrubs. Vinca proved to be a very stubborn and resilient plant so there was more work to be done. With Veronica Gedrich's permission, the Green Team reached out to the Greater Irvington Land Trust asking for funding to be used for the restoration of the gardens at the Historical Society. The GILT Board granted the approval to spend $2,000 towards removal of the invasive species; the design of the garden with native mostly deer-resident local ecotypes; their purchase and transportation from a special nursery; installation and maintenance. The plant choices are especially fitting because they are the type that were historically present on the land here. The Green Team held a third volunteer event on October 4, 2025 where, thanks to this generous grant from GILT, ten volunteers were able to install beautiful local eco-type plants including butterfly weed, which is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies. The native plants attracted pollinators right away. Educational materials from the Green Team, O'Hara Nature Center, Pollinator Pathways, Lower Hudson PRISM, Healthy Yards, and Bedford2030 were distributed during this event. Residents interested in a free native garden consultation can contact the Irvington Green Team for more information. https://www.irvingtongreen.org/land/healthy-yards The Historical Society was deeply grateful to all the volunteers who helped restore the garden at the McVickar House. A special thank you goes to Peter Strom, Native Plant Gardener and Horticulturist, who created the new garden design and selected native plants based on the amount of sunlight and richness of the soil. We hope that residents will enjoy the refreshed look of the garden and that this project will inspire people to plant native plants in their own gardens, especially milkweed so that monarch butterflies can thrive. List of New Plantings at the Irvington, NY Historical Society, located at 131 Main Street, Irvington, NY 10533: Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) Thread Leaf Coreopsis (Coreopsis verticilata) White Wood Aster (Eurybia divaricata) Appalachian Sedge (Carex appalachia) Packera (Packera obavata) False Indigo (Baptisia australis) Spotted beebalm (Monarda punctata) Narrow Leaf Mountain Mint (Pycnanthemum tenuifolium) Aromatic Aster (Symphiotrichum oblongifolium), Creeping Sedge (Carex laxiculmis) Black Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa)

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

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

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

Irvington Green Team

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

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below.

10/20/2025

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