Borough of Glen Ridge

Glen Ridge, NJ

Mayor Deborah Mans

Pledge Summary

The Borough of Glen Ridge is located in Northern New Jersey with a population of approximately 7,500. Numerous organizations, schools, and individuals in Glen Ridge have launched projects to support monarchs and pollinators, including planting pollinator gardens at Clay and Benson Street parks, Freeman Garden, and our schools, selling Penstemon digitalis at our 2025 Arts and EcoFair, and registering properties to be part of Glen Ridge's "Pollinator Pathway" program.

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.
- 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 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

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

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Debbie Mans	2026	4/30/2026	
Mayor Deborah Mans	2025	4/20/2025	Signatories
Mayor Deborah Mans	2024	3/26/2024	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.).

100

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.

0.21

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' yards, schools

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

trying to create more free programming

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

increase community engagement and awareness on the importance of creating pollinator habitat

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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funding for signage would be helpful

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

We expanded our programming to include a "Greener Together" Garden Tour, which was well attended.

Selected Action Items

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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

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.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

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)

150 plants were swapped at the event. Native seed library located at library as well.

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

18

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

Glen Ridge Public Library, Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee

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:

May 12, 2025

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MonarchPledge2025.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).

Our Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee redid their website and has dedicated an extensive section of the new website to yard & garden care, with sections on native plants, pest management, etc. NWF is linked on the site: https://www.goglenridgegreen.org/yard-and-garden The Committee also maintains an active social media presence: https://www.instagram.com/glenridgegreen/ and https://www.facebook.com/people/Glen-Ridge-Environmental-Advisory-Committee/100093537529621/ Information on native plants and pollinator gardens is regularly showcased.

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.

Four private gardens (residence participated)

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

This year the Environmental Advisory Committee planned and hosted its first Greener Together Garden Tour on July 13, 2025, to highlight four beautiful, sustainably managed private Glen Ridge gardens (also featuring native and pollinator plants). A talk was also given at the end of the event by a trained naturalist on the importance of fireflies.

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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.

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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 pollinator garden is located at Clay Field and is now in its third year. The field also serves as a playground and platform tennis area and is directly across from our track and high school field area, so it gets a lot of exposure. The field is located at the intersection of Sherman Avenue and Belleville Avenue, Glen Ridge.

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

Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee

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.

0.01

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

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

Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee

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

200

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We sold Penstemon plugs at our annual Arts & EcoFair in May 2025.

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