Village of Sleepy Hollow

Sleepy Hollow, NY

Mayor Martin Rutyna

Pledge Summary

Sleepy Hollow is an idyllic rivertown village located north of New York City on the banks of the majestic Hudson River. Sleepy Hollow, with its stunning views, has a growing population with approximately 11,000 residents, and includes many parks, green spaces, and a growing park and trail system. The Village is also adjacent to and contains parts of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve with its over 1,700 acres of fields, forests, lakes and wetlands. The Village and its many volunteers have long supported pollinator pathways. Volunteers have planted pollinator gardens in parks and on private property around the Village to support the monarch butterfly habitat. The Mayor and Village are committed to protecting the monarch butterfly and other pollinators in the 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.)

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 Martin Rutyna	2025	3/7/2025	
Mayor Martin Rutyna	2024	3/28/2024	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

2000

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.)

20

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.

.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.

Village Hall was the only verified and documented creation place. Through outreach we are sure more people and locations were created but that is difficult to measure.

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

The monarch pledge is part of a larger effort to improve the amount of green space in our inner village improving the quality of life for thousands of our residents. The monarch garden was important in demonstrating the ease creation and beauty of small monarch friendly gardens in Sleepy Hollow.

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

A lifelong love of nature and the pollinators that make it possible and wanting more of our residents to know how easy it is to support our ecosystem.

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?

Volunteers have been the most helpful. People who donated their time and effort to get the garden planted and ensure its success in the first year were very important. To expand we will need to add additional gardens in our inner village to engage more residents.

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

The entire project was done with zero tax dollars thanks to kind donations from local contractors and volunteers.

Selected Action Items

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)

21 Beekman avenue is a dedicated monarch demonstration garden and located across from village hall. We hold multiple events and it has been the focal point of multiple village events and speeches throught the year.

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

Our Environmental Committtee, Sustainable Sleepy Hollow and our village volunteer group for garden maintenance and support.

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.

.01

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.)

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

Monarch Garden Sign.pdf

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

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Communication in our village is highly centered on on digital and website to reduce the use of mailings. Our village pushed out a monthly newsletter article and website content supporting our new garden and the importance of pollinators. We also had a sign in our garden that is visited by thousands of people each year.

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:

11/27/2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

monarchpledge.pdf

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