Village of Trout Valley

Trout Valley, IL

Village President Robert Baker

Pledge Summary

The Village of Trout Valley is a small community in northeast Illinois and has a population of approximately 500 residents. The Village is situated on the banks of the Fox River and is heavily wooded with natural landscapes and a nine-acre natural Fen. The Village maintains multiple pollinator gardens on public land.

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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Robert Baker	2026	2/4/2026	
Village President Robert Baker	2025	4/17/2025	Signatories
Village President Robert Baker	2024	4/29/2024	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.).

200

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.)

0

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.

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.

Indivual residences and roadsides throughout Trout Valley

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

Hopefully marginalized communities will be inspired by Trout Valley's Mayors' Monarch Pledge

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

Our love of nature, which is the main reason why the majority of residents move to Trout Valley moved here in the first place

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?

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County have been most helpful in establishing our pollinator gardens.

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

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Signing the Monarch Butterfly Pledge has encouraged residents to establish their own pollinator gardens at their homes.

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.

Date of Proclamation:

June 16, 2025

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

Trout Valley residents to cultivate pollinator gardens to support monarch butterflies.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025 Mayor's Monarch Proclamation.jpg

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.

Posts on Trout Valley Facebook page 2025.docx

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

Newsletter article.jpg

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

Published notices on the Trout Valley electronic newsletter and on the Trout Valley Facebook pages

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

Roadside pollinator gardens4.jpeg

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

Bed C -2 (1).jpg

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

Roadside pollinator gardens.jpeg

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

Roadside pollinator gardens2.jpeg

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

Roadside pollinator gardens3.jpeg

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

Roadside pollinator gardens4.jpeg

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

The Trout Valley Barn - 167 Country Commons Road, Trout Valley The Trout Valley Gazebo - between 174 and 107 Trout Valley Road, Trout Valley Corner of Big Oaks and Turkey Run Roads in Trout Valley The Community Lodge, 1 Howards Way, Trout Valley Trout Valley Community Produce Gardens, Golf Lane, Trout Valley Trout Valley Swimming Pool, River Drive, Trout Valley Corner of Rainbow Lane and Trout Valley Road, Trout Valley Corner of Rainbow Lane and Turkey Run Road, Trout Valley Tom Sawyer Pond, Trout Valley

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1000

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size

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of a football field.

1/4 of an acre

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Regular weeding a maintenance of these garden beds by volunteers.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Minutes for the August 28, 2025 Meeting.docx

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

The Trout Valley Homeowners Association participated in the mayor's pledge led by the Landscape Committee.

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

Landscape Committee members volunteered to maintain the pollinator gardens in Trout Valley.

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.

The Land Conservancy of McHenry County and McHenry County Master Gardeners

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

The following residents are Master Gardeners - Sheelagh Cooke, Kristin Purtill, Sandy Bury and Jennifer Rochon. The Following residents are members of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County - Bob Antrim, David Hall, Sheelagh Cooke, Blaine Dodt, Sandy Bury, Ray Larson, Gloria Walsh, Susanne Petersson, Ole Sinberg and Dave Peterson.

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