Village of River Forest

River Forest, IL

Village President Catherine Adduci

Pledge Summary

The Village of River Forest is home to roughly 11,717 residents. It is situated approximately 10 miles west of the City of Chicago, with easy access to public transportation. For more than 140 years, River Forest has remained an attractive community with rich architecture, beautiful homes and friendly residents who take pride in calling it their home. The Village is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Through the work of the Village's Sustainability Commission, we look forward to building more pollinator habitats throughout the community, including engaging with residents on ways they can help monarch butterflies through their own actions.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

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Village President Catherine Adduci	2026	1/29/2026	
Village President Catherine Adduci	2025	3/12/2025	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.).

2854

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.)

30

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.

0.23

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.

shared public space; roadsides

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

share information and resources and explain benefits

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

high interest in wildlife preservation

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?

infographics and communications resources

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

slowly identifying potential public rights-of-way to add pollinator plants to

Selected Action Items

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.

Screenshot Facebook.PNG

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

Screenshot Instagram.jpg

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

Screenshot Newsletter.png

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

Screenshot Website.png

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

Communications campaign through newsletter, social media, and dedicated Village Webpage

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

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

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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.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

30

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

Roosevelt Middle School - Mr. Corey Kadlec - Science Teacher

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Map of observed milkweed plants in River Forest as conducted by Mr. Corey Kadlec's Roosevelt Middle School science students. https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1XqMA8rBNz3Ojirwl6b4GAyLcgWHfN1I&ll=41.894115979473 5%2C-87.81458290000002&z=14

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.

Butterfly Garden Milkweed.jpeg

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

Heritage Square Natives.jpeg

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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)

Heritage Square - SE corner of Park Ave. and Lake St. prominent location on the Lake St. Corridor that was converted from a Village staff parking lot into a corner park with native planting site. Butterfly Garden: Central Ave. rail line abutment, across from Keystone Park.

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

River Forest Sustainability Commission; Village Public Works Staff

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.

0.05

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

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

NE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Forest Ave. NE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Jackson Ave. NE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Keystone Ave. NW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Forest Ave. NW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Jackson Ave. NW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Keystone Ave. SE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Bonnie Brae SE Corner of Chicago Ave. (pictured here) and Forest Ave. SE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Jackson Ave. SE Corner of Chicago Ave. and Keystone Ave. SW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Bonnie Brae SW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Forest Ave. SW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Jackson Ave. SW Corner of Chicago Ave. and Keystone Ave.

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

450

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 of a football field.

0.18

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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Maintenance to be performed 8 months each year Village contractor specializing in native planting maintenance. Staff have identified new revenue to put toward further restoration of bioswales

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:

Adopted on 6/22/26 and proclaiming 6/22/26 through 6/28/26

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

Proclamation Designating June 22 through June 28, 2026 as Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2026 signed proclamation.pdf

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