Village of Buffalo Grove

Buffalo Grove, IL

Village President Beverly Sussman

Pledge Summary

Buffalo Grove's Village President has taken the Monarch Pledge, committing to a series of actions aimed at supporting the monarch butterfly population and other pollinators in the village. In partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, the Village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, will implement various conservation efforts, including habitat creation, educational programs, and community engagement events. By preserving and enhancing local ecosystems, Buffalo Grove is taking important steps towards protecting the environment and ensuring a sustainable future for its residents.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and

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pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Eric Smith	2025	12/9/2024	Leadership Circle
Village President Eric Smith	2024	3/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Village President Beverly Sussman	2023	3/21/2023	Leadership Circle
Village President Beverly Sussman	2022	1/14/2022	
Village Manager Dane C. Bragg	2021	2/19/2021	

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.).

650

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.)

400 youth, 250 adults

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

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public spaces, and more.

Public parks and road medians in partnership with our county agencies.

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

Volunteers work with surrounding communites to hand out free milkweed seed packets at community events, such as the Buffalo Grove Farmers Market.

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

Buffalo Grove is committed to sustainability, and prides itself on maintaining many acres of natural areas. Recognizing the value of pollinators like the monarch butterfly, the village works with a team of voulunteers to provide community outreach and provide ways to support the monarch butterfly at their own homes in addition to the Village and Park District's efforts.

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?

Our volunteer team works closely with Village and Park District staff to plan events to educate and engage the community on the importance of the monarch butterfly and pollinators. This collaborative relationship has contributed greatly to the growth of efforts to save the monarch butterfly in Buffalo Grove.

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

BG's Save the Monarchs volunteer group is currently working with local church congregations to plant pollinator gardens. The volunteer that leads this group is also a member of the Illinois Monarch project and hands out nectar seed packets provided by the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club/ Woods & Wetlands group.

Selected Action Items

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team, Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove, Village of Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove Park District

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

The Village and Park District work with these groups to continually identify opportunities for new native plant areas and provide space for new native plant habitats wherever possible.

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.

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team, Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove Park District

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

The Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove group routinely identifies opportunities for public outreach and engagement, such as presenting to local high school biology classes on the importance of monarchs and pollinators, providing free seed packets and working with groups such as Eagle Scout candidates on service projects.

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)

Over 100

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

250

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

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team, Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove Park District

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

53

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What species were collected or propagated?

74 species of prairie, wetland and woodland mixes

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

Buffalo grove Environmental Action Team, Scouts, Prairie Guardians, Buffalo Grove High School students along with Village and Park District employees

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

96 pounds of seeds were processed to cover 8-10 acres of new basin and prairie areas in our village and parks, saving taxpayer dollars.

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)

The native plant garden is located in a basin behind Village Hall, 50 Raupp Blvd in Buffalo Grove. In 2017, the Village converted a turf grass detention basin west of Village Hall and north of Lake Cook Road, to a pollinator-friendly area featuring a rich mixture of native plants. The Village partnered with Siemens and the Buffalo Creek Clean Watershed Partnership to bring this important educational area to fruition. Pollinator-friendly areas are continually sought to be converted with pollinator supporting plants throughout the Village each year.

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

Siemens and the Buffalo Creek Clean Watershed Partnership

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.

0.5

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

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

Located at the intersection of Buffalo Grove and McHenry Roads.

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

5

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.

0.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These median areas are maintained by Lake County in accordance with the Lake County Regional Framework Plan.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

The Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team and Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove group presented at Buffalo Grove High School biology classes.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Buffalo Grove High School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

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Educational presentations

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

400 students

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

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team and Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

N/A

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

NA

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

In progress

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

While the Village Code does not expressly prohibit native plantings on private property, there is opportunity for language to be added to promote plantings and differentiate native grasses from unkempt lawns.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

NA

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

In progress

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

There is no defined ordinance in the Village code promoting the use of milkweed and natives, but the Village's forestry team evaluates opportunities to utilize natives wherever possible and has defined language outlining the use of them in their written policies and procedures.

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?

NA

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

In progress

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

Opportunities for future native planted areas continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis by our Village Public Works team in conjunction with the Park District.

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.

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VOBG 23 May-Jun Newsletter (1).pdf

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

Information was included in the Village newsletter about how to support pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and the importance of native plants such as milkweed in this effort.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Volunteers with Buffalo Grove's Save the Monarchs group meet with biology students at Buffalo Grove School to present on the importance of native plants in supporting pollinators, and hands out information and free milkweed seed packets to residents at the Buffalo Grove Farmer's Market.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Sustainability Report 2023 (1).pdf

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

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action 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 below.

January 2024

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:

NA

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

NA

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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