Village of Buffalo Grove

Buffalo Grove, IL

Village President Eric Smith

Pledge Summary

Buffalo Grove is a community that seamlessly blends intelligence with compassion. From its exceptional schools and green spaces to its accessibility and commitment to progress, BG is a place where every decision and every day is Smart. With Heart. Village leadership and staff have partnered with local volunteers since 2016 to promote efforts to save the monarch butterfly and promote pollinators in our community. These efforts have resulted in a wide variety of native plants throughout the village's many natural areas.

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.
- 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

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).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.).

1200

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

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

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below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.5

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.

Court islands, public rights of way, schools, places of worship, public parks

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

Routine annual public events and free seed giveaways at community events allow individuals at all backgrounds to participate in our efforts to protect the monarch butterfly. Many pollinator waystations and educational signage are located in public areas, allowing access without barriers.

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

The village is committed to baeutification iconic species, pollinators are in peril, doing our part to inform the public through performing native planting

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?

Directing residents to NWF for additional information, sending notifications to school science teachers about pollinator efforts , providing more printed or digital materials to direct people to for additonal information on how to get involved, stickers for placing on seed packets for proper seed planting instructions. Provide a listing on NWF of which communities have groups.

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

Buffalo Grove's effort is very collaborative, volunteers in our community have encouraged surrounding communities, including Libertyville, Northbrook and Lake Zurich, to sign the Mayor's Monarch Pledge as well and assist with their events.

Selected Action Items

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

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

Community gardening groups plant native Milkweed and nectar plants throughout the community. Volunteers through the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council work with the village to maintain five butterfly/pollinator gardens in the community. Volunteers also met and spoke to garden groups from Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, Deerfield and the director of Go Green in Vernon Hills.

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.

BGEAT, Village of Buffalo Grove, 4C STEM Club, BG High School, BG Farmers Market

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

Village worked with other Monarch groups at events for education of the public. Also performed invasive species clearing and milkweed seed/native seed packet giveaways.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The Village has several established native planting areas, and continues to work with volunteer sustainability groups to identify additional opportunities for future native planting areas. There has been discussion with HOA's in the Village about putting in native plants. Bruce Glickson has met with with Tom Milas about the planting and maintaining of medians along main roads in the village. Some of these are county operated, but are maintained well through the growing season.

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:

December 2, 2024

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

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MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE DAY

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation.pdf

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)

There are areas planted by Lake County (BG is in Cook and Lake county) government on Aptakisic and Weiland Road medians. Plantings also are done along some bike trails throughout the Village.

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

1

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.

0.1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Throughout the year, our Public Works Forestry division works to monitor our natural planted areas. Seasonal maintenance is performed, including spraying and removal of invasive grasses, including canarygrass, teasel, birdsfoot, trefoil and more. Prescribed burns are performed as needed, while seed mixes are sowed in January and February and plugs are installed in April and May.

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)

Public education and outreach efforts

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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)

4

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

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High Schools

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

Educational presentations by volunteers, field trips, seed packets and information

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).

Approximately 300 students, 10 educators

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

Kingswood Church, Northbrook Monarch Group

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.

0.5

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

Volunteers with BGEAT visit these locations periodically throughout the year.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

10

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

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When presenting at public events, BG monarch volunteers always talk about the importance of invasive cleanup. On the first Sunday of every month (weather permitting) the EAT team goes to the 10 acre BG prairie and cuts invasives as directed by Jeff Weiss. Replanting these areas is also part of the removal process.

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)

1200

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

1200

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

Buffalo Grove Farmers Market Committee, "Monarchs Milkweed and More" in Northbrook, Environmental Action Team

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?

Village of Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove Park District

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.

Public Works and the Park District help is always available when needed for requests from the BGEAT group or monarch volunteers. They have the right plans and programs to help in these efforts. Native planting has been done on the BG golf course also.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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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.

In progress

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

Monarch volunteers have spoken to officials in the village along with Jeff Weiss from BGEAT, and the village only uses these chemicals when necessary. The village is committed to helping in promoting the survival of the monarch butterfly and pollinators.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

IMG_1605.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

10

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Monarch Waystation signs are displayed at the Village Hall basin, each of the Interfaith garden areas, the train staition and school gardens. These have been purchased from Monarch Watch and Monarch Joint Venture. Educational signage at this location also outlines the importance of BG's natural areas, and what types of plants individuals can expect to see in different areas.

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?

Village of Buffalo Grove

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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.

In progress

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

Buffalo Grove practices good mowing techniques to protect and maintain native planting. Under village code, native plantings in yards are exempt from the village's six-inch grass mowing requirement.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

Volunteers supported a seed giveaway at the Buffalo Grove Farmers Market, and performed educational presentations at Highland Park and Northbrook Libraries. These events encourage residents to take personal action on monarch preservation by providing them with seed packets and encouraging them to plant in their own yards. Each of these events were free and open to the public, aiming to remove barricades to getting involved in pollinator preservation efforts, and connecting underserved residents with the tools they need to get involved in the effort.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Village of Buffalo Grove

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Buffalo Grove has been designated as a Tree City USA community for over 35 years. BG's urban forestry plan and native planted areas prioritize usage of planting and maintaining native plants for the benefit of pollinators and to contribute to the overall natural scenery of Buffalo Grove.

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

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

Village of Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove Farmers Market

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

50

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Volunteers work to continually identify opportunities to add milkweed and nectar plants to area gardens. Seed packets are also provided to residents on an ongoing basis at community events like the farmers market, and winter seed sowing is promoted at public events.

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.

IMG_1605 2.jpg

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 BGEAT group and monarch volunteers have planted butterfly/pollinator gardens at BG (1100 W Dundee Road) and Wheeling High School (900 S Elmhurst Rd, Wheeling). Monarch Waystation signage was given to each school by volunteers. Gardens were also started at 5 religious congregations. These are maintained by the congregations and monarch volunteers. Kingswood Church (401 W Dundee Road), Hope Lutheran (1660 Cheker Road, Long Grove), Beth Judea (5304 Rte 83, Long Grove), Good Shepherd (1111 N Elmhurst Rd, Prospect Heights) and Willow Creek Church (500 Barclay Blvd, Lincolnshire), are locations of these garden areas. BG Village Hall (50 Raupp Blvd) also has a Native area maintained by Public Works and the EAT group maintains the garden at the Metra train station (825 Commerce Court) in BG.

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

Living Lands Conservation Company, Village of Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Creek Clean Water 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

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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

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 Public Works, Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team, 4C STEM Club, Buffalo Grove Park District, socut troops

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

Jeff Weiss, head of the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team oversees over 30 projects in the Village. These include planting and maintaining BG's natural planted areas. He supervises these along with the head Arborist for Buffalo Grove, Tom Milas, and other leaders in Public Works and the Park District. Our lead monarch volunteer, Bruce Glickson, is also in contact with Master Gardners at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where he volunteers seasonally in the Butterflies & Blooms exhibit as a guide through the exhibit. Every year, these volunteer groups team up for a seed processing event, where mixes are made to be used over the course of the next year in BG's native planted areas. This year's event, held on December 8, processed over 100 pounds of seeds from 90 different species.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Seed Processing Event.jpeg

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed

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

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team

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

Bruce and the BGEAT worked to give out over 1,000 milkweed seed envelopes during the season. Commonly, butterfly and swap seeds that have been given to me by people I talk to at Farmer Markets and other events in Buffalo Grove and nearby communities. Participation in other community seed swaps is done also. Plant sales are advertised to the public at these events. Seed collecting and cleaning is also a large activity for the EAT team from our BG native prairie and other planted areas of the Village. Bruce has over 50 Milkweed plants in his yard that seeds are collected from and given out community events. These species include common, butterfly and swamp milkweed. Every year, volunteer groups team up for a seed processing event, where mixes are made to be used over the course of the next year in BG's native planted areas. This year's event, held on December 8, processed over 100 pounds of seeds from 90 different species.

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