Village of Buffalo Grove

Buffalo Grove, IL

Village President Eric Smith

Pledge Summary

Nestled in the northwest Chicago suburbs, the vibrant Village of Buffalo Grove perfectly blends a commitment to knowledge with a focus on creating the best life for all of its residents. This thoughtful approach pervades across the community and can best be described as Smart. With Heart. Located 35 miles northwest of Chicago, Illinois, the Village of Buffalo Grove is a bustling, home-rule municipality covering more than 9.25 square miles in both Cook and Lake Counties. Our residents enjoy nationally-ranked public schools, expansive open spaces, access to employment centers, and other important amenities. We pride ourselves on being a great place to Live, Work and Learn. With an active volunteer base committed to preserving and protecting native habitats that support pollinators like the monarch butterfly, Buffalo Grove takes these efforts to heart, and Village President Eric Smith is proud to once agin sign on to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge to prioritize these efforts in 2025.

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 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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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 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

- 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.).

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

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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 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 of all backgrounds to participate in our efforts to protect the monarch butterfly. Many pollinator waystations and educational signage are located in public areas, allowing open access to information about monarch protection efforts.

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

The Village of Buffalo Grove is committed to beautification through smart, beneficial planted and natural areas. Monarch are an iconic species, and pollinators are in peril. The Village is doing our part to inform the public of the importance of pollinators through native planted areas.

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 for additional 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 active Monarch protection groups for networking and resource-sharing.

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

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Mayor's Monarch Pledge as well and assist with their events.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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

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):

Recognizing June as National Pollinators Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

PROCLAMATION - RECOGNIZING JUNE AS NATIONAL POLLINATORS MONTH - BOT 05192025.pdf

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 2026-01-12 at 1.40.39 PM.png

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

Screenshot 2026-01-12 at 1.40.50 PM.png

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

Screenshot 2026-01-12 at 1.41.25 PM.png

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

Screenshot 2026-01-12 at 1.41.37 PM.png

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

Screenshot 2026-01-12 at 1.41.44 PM.png

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

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

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

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

IMG_6710.PNG

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

The Village shared several social media posts throughout the year highlighting efforts to promote monarch habitats and providing resources through which to find native plants. Community volunteers distributed informational fliers promoting the planting of milkweed plants at various community events throughout the year, such as the weekly Buffalo Grove Farmers Market. Additionally, the Public Works' Department's Forestry Section hosted an informational table at the annual Public Works Department Open House, which provided free packets of native seed mix for residents to take home.

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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.

The Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team performs invasive species removal at the 10-acre Buffalo Grove Prairie on the first Sunday of each month. Volunteers are given instructions from the Prairie Steward regarding what to look for, and replanting is performed when necessary. When presenting at public events, BG monarch volunteers always talk about the importance of invasive cleanup.

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

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)

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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.

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.

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 2025.pdf

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

Village of BuffaloGrove

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.

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The Village has committed to incorporating and promoting sustainable and pollinator-friendly habitats wherever possible. Any large-scale Public Works Projects take these considerations into account. Additional information can be found on page 20 of the Village's Sustainability Plan Report.

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.

Community gardening groups plant native Milkweed and nectar plants throughout the community. Volunteers with the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council and Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (BGEAT) work with the Village to maintain five butterfly/pollinator gardens in the community.

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 (BG EAT), Buffalo Grove Public Works Department, Buffalo Grove Park District, 4C STEM Club, Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove.

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

A collaborative partnership exists between the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (BGEAT), Buffalo Grove Public Works Department and the Buffalo Grove Park District to continually identify opportunity areas for which to plant native plants and grasses. Through this collaboration, volunteers also help maintain these areas throughout the year by performing native removal, seed processing, and plantings.

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 Public Works, Buffalo Grove Park District.

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

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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. Bruce Glickson, lead volunteer of Save the Monarchs in Buffalo Grove, has met with with Tom Milas about the planting and maintaining of mediansalong main roads in the village. Some of these are county operated, but are maintained well through the growing season.

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.

Planning for the Clove Park site began in July 2025, and stakeholders from BGEAT were present at the first of several community input meetings. This one-acre, centrally-located public park is highly-visible and presents an opportunity to create public demonstration gardens or incorporate beneficial native plantings. The Village's existing Comprehensive Plan regulates the use of property in order to and use management strategies that focus on preserving green space, encouraging attractive and durable landscape plans. The plan is in the process of being updated with these same priorities in mind as future opportunities are identified.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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, native plant seeds are given to Bruce when he is present 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, and the Village promotes avenues and events for residents to pick up seeds of their own, as Lake County hosts an annual native plant sale each year. Seed collecting and cleaning is also a large activity for the BGEAT team. Seeds are collected from our BG native prairie and other planted areas of the Village. Bruce has over 50 Milkweed plants in

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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 to be used in BG's native planted areas.

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 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, as well as a pair of smaller demonstration gardens outside the former Public Works facility and Police Department. The BGEAT 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 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.

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 Public Works on Aptakisic and Weiland Road medians. Plantings also are done along some bike trails throughout the Village.

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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, the Village's 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

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)

1

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

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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 to ensure proper maintenance is being performed.

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_5650.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 station 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.

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