Village of Sugar Grove

Sugar Grove, IL

Village President Elect Sue Stillwell

Pledge Summary

Sugar Grove is a Village in Illinois with a population of roughly 10,000. The Village is home to many parks and open spaces and we would like to incorporate more native pollinator habitat and community gardens. The newly elected Village President of Sugar Grove, Sue Stillwell has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout Sugar Grove.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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).
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- 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.
- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Village President Sue Stillwell	2026	2/21/2026	
Village President Elect Sue Stillwell	2025	4/10/2025	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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.

22

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

We have many residents that enjoy increasing Monarch habitat for a healthier environment and to support Monarchs

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 resource that would be helpful is an increased availability of social media graphics related to the program

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.).

30

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.

Residences, approximately 30 participating gardens, a community garden with Milkweed and a 20+ acre area with native pollinator seeds added

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

We have tried to include our entire community

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.)

5

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

We have enjoyed increasing the number of pollinator gardens, our pollinator garden contest, increasing the number of native seeds and look forward to next year!

Selected Action Items

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

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

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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).

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

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.

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.

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

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

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

What was the date of your festival?

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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?

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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)

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 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.

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.

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

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.

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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.

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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.

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:

05/06/2025

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

Monarch Project Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

VOSG Mayors Monarch Pledge 2025.pdf

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.

We started the Sugar Grove Beautification and Gardening Committee! It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic community members come together to share their love for gardening and learn more about the Committee and native gardens. A special thank you to Kathleen Carr from The Growing Scene, Inc., for her engaging presentation on the importance of pollinator gardens. She motivated attendees to consider creating their own gardens to attract pollinators. We're also grateful to Midwest Groundcovers for their generous donation of Orange Butterfly Weed. This plant adds beautiful color to our gardens but also provides a vital resource for butterflies and other pollinators. 🦋 Thank you to everyone who joined us; your participation made this meeting successful!

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

SG Beautification and Gardening Committee.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.)

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

SG Beautification and Gardening Committee.jpg

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

Monarch Project and BG Committee.jpg

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

We started the Sugar Grove Beautification and Gardening Committee! We used both Social Media and Print Media to invite new volunteers to participate and plant their own Monarch Garden as well as participate in expanding community gardens

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.

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

Our Public Works Director is actively involved in helping Sugar Grove increase the number of native plants and assisted in ordering bulk native plant seeds including milkweed for a local area (20 + acres) that had previously been mostly ragweed and invasives. We are also communicating with the Illinois Department of Transportation and providing comments regarding increasing natives on an upcoming project and reviewing options for reduced mowing if low growing natives are introduced

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

Sugar Grove Beautification & Gardening Committee, Village of Sugar Grove and Sugar Grove Public Works

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

30

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

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The garden markers for participating Monarch Gadrdens are 6" x 6" or 4" x 4". (Larger size for bigger pollinator gardens or smaller for small or potted gardens) They are durable and hopefully will last multiple years, thank you to local business SignFX 🙂They were available by request or at our local Beautification & Gardening Committee Meetings. The text reads: "Sugar Grove Monarch Project, Official Garden. The garden before you includes beneficial wildflowers and plants native to this region of Illinois. Can you find any Milkweed in my Garden?"

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

Monarch Project Garden Markers.jpg

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

Planning Commission, Village Board & Zoning along with the Conservation Foundation

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

Ordinance 4-4-1 was updated to allow managed natural landscapes, flowers, gardens, cultivated prairie plants and native plants: All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of eight (8) inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants, and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs; however, the term shall not include cultivated prairie plants, flowers and gardens or managed natural landscapes. No brush, tree, or other growth shall be permitted to obstruct, restrict, or encroach upon any public sidewalk, alley, street, parkway, or any easement. If it is determined that plantings are obstructing site lines where cultivated prairie plants or managed natural landscapes are grown in property areas that are typically occupied by lawn (mowed) grasses, the property owner shall provide a buffer strip twenty-four (24) inches wide, abutting the public right of way as a border to prevent encroachment and protect sight lines. Native prairie plants are those defined by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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

Approved and Implemented

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.

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/sugargroveil/latest/sugargrove_il/0-0-0-1724

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Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

16

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

Midwest Groundcovers who donated Orange Butterfly Weed that was given away to the attendees of the Beautification & Gardening Committee's June Meeting. Additionally, milkweed seeds were available for anyone who wanted them.

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

june 12 plant giveaway.jpg

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Planter painting Aug 2025.jpg

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Members of the community and the Beautification & Gardening Committee gathered to paint planters donated to the Sugar Grove Chamber of Commerce that will be placed throughout the Village in the spring and will contain native plants.

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

Sugar Grove Beautification & Gardening Committee, Village of Sugar Grove, Sugar Grove Chamber of Commerce

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.

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

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Kathleen Carr from The Growing Scene, Inc., spoke to the Sugar Grove Beautification & Gardening Committee about the importance of pollinator gardens. Kathleen is the owner of The Growing Scene, Inc., and is an Illinois Certified Nursery Professional in trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. This certification is through the Illinois Green Industry Association and is designed to maintain a high quality of education within the green industry.

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

K. Carr Presentation 6 2025.jpg

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

Sugar Grove Beautification & Gardening Committee Village of Sugar Grove

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

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.

Ord. 2025-0715CD1, 7-15-2025 - Adds exception for native plants which may now grow taller than 8 inches

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

Conservation Foundation for help writing the weed ordinance to exclude native plants

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.

Two, one Homeowners Association was encouraged to increase native plants when they had an issue with keeping non-native plants watered and the second group is our Beautification and Gardening Committee

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

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Discussion with one HOA and planning with the Beautification and Gardening committee for future gardens

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

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

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

In progress, we are working with IDOT to include native plants in an upcoming road widening project

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

IL Route 47 through Sugar Grove

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

0

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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

Pollinator Garden Contest Entries 2025 final.pdf

When did this challenge take place?

July 16, 2025 - August 11, 2025

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

11

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What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

1

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

Village of Sugar Grove Beautification & Gardening Committee

Please describe your challenge and the results.

The Beautification & Gardening Committee held a Pollinator Garden Contest to engage the community and raise awareness. Hopefully, this will inspire more residents to plant pollinator gardens.

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

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

100

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

Butterfly Weed Donated.jpg

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We had Donated Asclepias Tuberosa plants for residents' pollinator gardens as well as 50 packets of milkweed seeds distributed

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

Midwest Groundcovers and the Beautification and Gardening Committee

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).

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

Canopy Adult Services Program Serving the Autism Community

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 Canopy program for Adults with Autism Created and Maintained a Pollinator Garden - https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17tvJ31fUo/

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.

1

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

Information and a Garden Marker for being a participating Garden

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

Participants care for the garden daily during the spring and summer

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).

50

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.

Canopy Adult Services Program Serving the Autism Community

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

Canopy Pollinator Garden Full.jpg

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

Canopy Pollinator Garden 1.jpg

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

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

We do have a night sky ordinance, however this was passed prior to 2025

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.

(Ord. 2017-12-05, 12-5-2017; amd. Ord. 2018-03-20C, 3-20-2018)

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

Village Board

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

Completed

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