Town of Southold

Town of Southold, NY

Supervisor Albert Krupski, Jr.

Pledge Summary

The Town of Southold is located in the northeastern tip of Long Island, surrounded by the Peconic Bay to the south and the Long Island Sound to the north. The Town is comprised of ten hamlets and one village, the oldest of which was settled in 1640. Approximately 10,000 acres or 30% of the Town's area, is dedicated to agriculture, and almost 9,000 acres constitutes protected land, such as parks and open space. In addition to agricultural businesses, the Town boasts a significant aquaculture presence. The Town's 2020 census population was 23,732. Supervisor Krupski is committed to saving monarch butterflies and other pollinators by signingthe Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging with Town residents to create and maintain pollinator habitats.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

- 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).

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Supervisor Albert Krupski, Jr.	2025	4/28/2025	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

100

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.)

50

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.

2

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.

Custer Preserve is 6 acres. The ReWild Waystation native garden at Custer is 3500 sq ft. The Town maintains an arboretum and meadow with paths cut out in the spring. It abuts the Custer Institute (planetarium).

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

Our garden inspired a similar garden at a center for low-income, immigrant, people of color communities. Elementary school children come to the garden and have done chores there. This represents all the children in the community able to engage with the Custer Preserve native garden.

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

We are a small, rural, agricultural, coastal community 100 miles east of New York City. We are surrounded by water on 3 sides of our narrow peninsula. Being good environmental stewards is innate in our communities. Having concrete examples of these gardens will motivate people to replicate some of these gardens at home. Or at least plant some native.

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?

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The volunteers and the Town have been vital in getting the garden started and maintained. We would appreciate seeing your resources that can help us move forward with environmental equity.

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

Several entities have chosen to install native gardens this year including CAST Community Center, Mattituck HS, several places of worship. The Town also applied for a plant design and native garden grant which was just recieeved. This garden will be by the Town Hall parking area where all visitors and employees access the building.

Selected Action Items

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

Southold Town is engaged in updating Zoning Laws that include consideration of native species when planting, restoring, etc. Additionally, the Town's Trustees have recently enacted Town Code updates which include requiring maintaining as much native vegetation as possible as well as requiring natives when replanting the parcel.

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.

We are till awaiting the Town's Final draft for the updated zoning to protect and encourage native plantings in Town. The Town's Trustees have put it into code: https://ecode360.com/5161455?highlight=trustees&searchId=6872720671970405#5161355 VEGETATED NON-TURF BUFFER A designated area maintained to be at least 50% covered with noninvasive native vegetation other than turf grass. This buffer serves to protect an adjacent natural feature by filtering runoff, stabilizing soil and providing habitat. The area is planted or naturally colonized with a mix of native trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcovers chosen for their deep root systems to enhance soil stability and water infiltration. Turf grass, including fescue species, pesticides and fertilizers are not permitted within the buffer zone. Vegetated non-turf buffers are subject to a planting plan approved by the Board based upon site-specific needs. Planting natives and eliminating invasives is part of the Town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 6 http://www.southoldtownny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7855/Southold-Town-

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Comprehensive-Plan-Vol-1 The removal of invasive species from Town-owned lands to facilitate the re-establishment of indigenous community types when a known population of endangered, threatened, species of special concern, locally rare or unique native species, or ecological community is directly jeopardized. On Town-owned properties, the introduction of exotic and invasive plants and animals poses a clear threat to native species, integrity of the natural communities and biodiversity. Encourage Landscaping Best Management Practices to eliminate the use of invasive species. Continue to educate the public about the benefits of using native species in landscaping. Include a web page on the Town's website that provides plant species recommended to replace non-native plant species and support native plant use in landscaping through the development of a handout of nurseries that sell native plants as a supplement to Town applications. In addition, as mentioned above in Water Resources, include schematics on the benefits of varying widths and vegetative compositions of vegetated buffers adjacent to water bodies.

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.

7 Community Organizations, with approximately 25 adults and 45 students involved. Southold Town, Southold Conservation Council, Southold-Peconic Civic Association, North Fork ReWild, Suffolk Master Gardeners, Group for the East End, Southold School District.

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

Each of these organizations and groups understand the value of pollinator pathways and has taken efforts to plant gardens and share with the local community and local schools. Weekly participants from most of these groups meet weekly to oversee and sustain the native gardens for butterflies and other pollinators. School students attend a field trip at this site at least once a year to learn about native gardens. The Custer Preserve site is approx 3500 square feet. This is part of a meadow habitat of 6 acres. The Town, Mattituck School District, and several local churches have installed native gardens this year. The Town received another ReWild grant to plant a native garden by Town Hall which will be visible to all visitors and employees who park at Town Hall.

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).

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

MonarchWaystation2.jpg

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

NativeGardenPoster.jpg

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

Southold Town Supervisor and several Town Board members, several members of the Southold Conservation Advisory Council, members of the Southold-Peconic Civic Association, Group for the East End, North Fork ReWild, and several certified Master Gardeners.

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

The Custer Preserve was started by the Southold-Peconic Civic Assn in partnership with the Town of Southold. Volunteers from all groups help with the maintenance of the garden. Summer 2025 the Town received a Waystation Plaque and certification plaque from ReWild for this native, butterfly pollinator garden. Volunteers from the above organizations meet weekly to care for the garden. Also, Information for visitors was installed at the garden.

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