Village of Yellow Springs

Yellow Springs, OH

Mayor Pam Conine

Pledge Summary

The Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio--population 3700 plus--is located in SW Ohio. Home of Antioch College, we are 20 minutes east of Dayton and a quick hour west of Columbus. Glen Helen, a 1000 acre nature preserve with over 21 miles of hiking trails along with creeks and waterways that feed into the Little Miami River, runs the length of the village and connects to the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve and John Bryan State Park. Yellow Springs has a Wildlife Habitat Community public Facebook page with 367 members--check us out! Many villagers are re-wilding their properties under the leadership of our village Environmental Commission and NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat signs dot village yards. Mayor Pam is happy to add the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to our village efforts in support of increasing habitats for Monarchs and other pollinators. Pictured below Mayor Pam takes a walk in the Yellow Springs Women’s Park with YSHS student research assistant, Eliza Gilchrist.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve McQueen	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor Pam Conine	2025	3/19/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Pam Conine	2024	2/12/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Pam Conine	2023	2/1/2023	Signatories
Mayor Pam Conine	2022	2/23/2022	Signatories
Mayor Pam Conine	2021	2/22/2021	Signatories

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.).

900

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.)

100 youth, 800 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

4

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.

Residential NWF Certified Wildlife Habitats + elementary school + community gardens + parks

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

N/A yet

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

Our community is very involved in preservation ecology, outdoor environments and community sustainability. Taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge was something to which the mayor (me) could contribute over a 5-year period. Not too big of a project, locally oriented, attainable goals with available resources thru the NWF.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Most helpful resources are the Zoom meetings every other month, the PDF resources such as “School and Habitat Planning Guide”, “NWF Landscaping Guide”, the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge Monthly Newsletters

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

Covid really played with my plans to make contact with local educators to secure student involvement in monarch educational efforts. Our local schools—as with many others across the nation—were closed and education went on-line. When school did reopen this past fall, volunteer presence in the schools was eliminated. Both these situations drastically changed the focus of my plans.

Selected Action Items

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.

WHC_YS.pdf

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

Yellow Springs is an active Community Wildlife Habitat village with over 90 residential certified yards.

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

Yellow Springs Wildlife Habitat Community: https://www.ysnwf.com

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?

Yellow Springs Wildlife Habitat Community

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

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40

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

40 native milkweed plants were given away in a free raffle at our village celebration on Earth Day, 2021. I got to draw the 40 winning raffle tickets. But on a more serious note, the Office of the Mayor has been researching free milkweed sources and has found the NWF to be very helpful in pointing us in the right direction. The work continues!

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.

5 participating groups: Village Environmental Commission, Village Department of Public Works, Yellow Springs Wildlife Habitat Community, Village Climate Action/Sustainability Committee, Locust Hills Golf Course

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

Since this was the first year of my involvement with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, I wanted to use much of my time for self-education on what local groups were already doing in support of these conservation efforts. I met with members of each of the above groups and will report one example of conservation efforts in effect with each group: • Village Environmental Commission: The commission supports a wetlands at the Village's Glass Farm where pollinator friendly plants and trees are maintained on the 17 acres of the 45-acre property. • Village Dept of Public Works: The Director of Public Works has ordered 50 pounds of Monarch Butterfly Wildflower Mix for use in new plantings on village-owned property. • YS Wildlife Habitat Community: The organization maintains a web site on which I have a Mayors' Monarch Pledge page for the purpose of educating the greater community on the importance of supporting our monarch population: https://www.ysnwf.com • Locust Hills Golf Course: Golf courses can be a wonderful resource for monarch-friendly plantings. The managers at Locust Hills--one of our closest courses to Yellow Springs—have added new pollinator/monarch plantings that abut some of their landscapes.

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:

April 25, 2021

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

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Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation_Monarch.jpg

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