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 Scenic 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 514 members.--check us out! Many villagers are re-wilding their properties under the leadership of our village Environmental Commission and over 108 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.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

- 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.

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- 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
Mayor Steve McQueen	2026	3/16/2026	
Mayor Pam Conine	2025	3/19/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Pam Conine	2024	2/12/2024	Signatories
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.).

2512

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.)

500 youth, 2012 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.

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.

public parks, residents' yards, schools, community gardens, commemorative sculpture garden

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

Two of our 4 community gardens are located near or next to low income housing. Our community is also quite diverse with a BIPOC population of 15% of our total residents. Our

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village is a tourist destination on the weekends and has two major street fairs each year--spring and fall, in addition to other expos and fairs I attend.

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

We have an active Environmental Commission in our village government and are an active NWF habitat community with over 100 registered households and properties. We realize the need for government and citizen action to support a healthy pollinator population.

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?

I continue to value the publications and one-pagers you provide for us to distribute at our MMP table during Earth Day and other summer festival exhibits. The publications help to focus visitors to our MMP table and provide impetus for discussion and engagement.

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

I appreciate access to your wonderful array of resources and enjoy participating in your bi-monthly MMP web Zooms whenever possible. I'm glad the Zoom sessions are posted for later viewing, too! Through our environmental work in the village (and I'm including the MMP work in this since I work actively with our habitat folks), talking about pollinator friendly efforts with the public works department, our village council, our local newspaper, and local web resources is becoming second nature and all outreaching arms of these organizations are mindful of our pollinator friends, certainly the monarchs.

Selected Action Items

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.

Dayton TV local access.jpg

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

resident milkweed.jpg

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

Locals visit MMP and Community Seed library tables.jpg

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

Seed Lady Florentina at Earth Day.jpg

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

I have utilized the local newspaper--Yellow Springs News--to inform the villagers about MMP efforts. Also, our local habitat team periodically publishes a column in the paper entitled "Down to Earth" about various local environmental efforts and I have included info on MMP in this column in addition to my own twice-yearly reports to the community. Appropriate photos of MMP activities are included in our village Facebook page as well. I've included sample photos of some of these efforts, including a shot taken at Dayton Public Access during Drag Story Time while I was interviewed and discussed the MMP with the show's host and children who attended the story time/discussion of monarch butterflies [you can see my poster on the side.] Another resident called me to their house to point out milkweed they were considering thinning or removing until we talked. I had a MMP table at April's Earth Day event teaming with Seed Lady Florentina, a seed saver, who distributed milkweed and other wildflower seed that day. We also teamed for a presentation at a local independent living home on the MMP. Attendees got to start their own baggie with growing medium and milkweed seeds for planting at their residences a month down the road.

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.

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

Ellis-Pond_01.5.jpg

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

Bill for seed.jpg

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

Seed for 6500 sq. ft..jpg

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

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Our public works director is now quite aware of the need for pollinator protection. On Nov. 16, I helped 2 other members of our village Environmental Commission and another community volunteer in addition to 3 members of the village public works crew who rolled the final planting, seed a 6500 sq. ft. future pollinator plot out at a local village park. (see photo) This is an excellent example of the collaboration between the Environmental commission, local habitat group, village dept. of public works, and private citizen volunteers.

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

A defined dirt boarder was left around the plot and pointed out to the grounds maintenance crew as they rolled the seed.

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

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

Golf Course flyer.pdf

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

Sweetgrass MI golf.jpg

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

monarch caterpillar on milkweed Michigan golf.jpg

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

I am a recreational golfer. As I travel on vacation to play on various courses locally, state-wide and around the country, I carry the attached flyer which I give to and discuss with the golf course land manager or pro, encouraging them to incorporate pollinator [with emphasis on the monarch] friendly plants on their grounds. To a person they are always very friendly, interested and positive. They usually have a story to tell, too. Attached is a copy of the flyer, a course in Michigan where I had yet another great discussion, and a shot from #2 on the back 9 at Sweetgrass where monarch caterpillars covered the milkweed planted there.

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

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

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Student volunteer at EarthDay milkweed raffle.jpg

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

Seed Lady Florentina at Earth Day.jpg

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

Milkweed raffle winners 2023.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Thirty milkweed plants were given away by raffle at our village Earth Day event where we co-facilitated a table next to Florentina Rodriguez, local seed lady who was giving away pollinator and milkweed seeds. Leaders were there from all village environmental groups including public schools.

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

350

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

Yellow Springs Environmental Commission, Yellow Springs Habitat Team, Florentina Rodriguez-- the Seed Library Lady, YS village school

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.

NWF habitat sign, 2023.jpg

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

Yellow Springs Environmental Commission, YS Habitat Community

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

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The Village of Yellow Springs Ohio has over 100 properties, both privately and publicly owned, which have been designated as NWF 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.

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

Ellis-Pond_02.5.jpg

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

Ellis-Pond_03.5.jpg

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

While Action 4 above details one of the major projects facilitated this year, this Action focuses on "continuing... the practice of including more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants on village property. Some on our village staff were initially hesitant 3 years ago to include pollinator friendly plantings in public areas for a variety of reasons ["They will draw bees", "the seed is expensive" "we don't have the person-power to plant milkweed starts", "liability for bee stings"--those were some of the reasons given. I am proud to say these attitudes are a thing of the past.

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

In progress as far as including language in ordinances, in progress as far as seeing the results over the next couple of years regarding the pollinator prairie planted in Ellis Park earlier this month.

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

In progress--I would like to present an ordinance to council next year encouraging pollinator-friendly native plants and milkweed on village property.

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.

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NATIVE HABITAT from Sustainability Plan Progress Report, 2021.docx

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

40 community members participated in virtual domain subcommittee meetings across the 6 domains of energy & buildings, food, native habitat, transportation, waste, and water

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

Incomplete, since the draft summative report was never adopted by council due to conflicting visions of how the plan should proceed.

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.

N/A

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

In Progress, as there is hope of adopting this or another Sustainability Plan down the road. Our village currently has an Interim Village Manager with a permanent one to be selected next year in 2024. Much will depend on that person and the priorities of village council.

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