Village of Yellow Springs

Yellow Springs, OH

Mayor Pam Conine

Pledge Summary

The Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio, is located in the SW corner of the state. Home of Antioch College, we have a population of 3700, give or take. Located 20 minutes east of Dayton, we are a quick hour west of our state capital, 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 552 members--check us out! Many villagers are re-wilding their properties under the leadership of our village Environmental Commission and at last count, 115 NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat signs dot village yards, including our two public schools. 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 2024

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- 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.

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

Communications and Convening

- 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.)

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- 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 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.

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 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.

2.5

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

Our village has increased the number of NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat properties from 108-120 within the last two years. We are a community committed to increasing pollinator habitat and as mayor, I want to support this effort.

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 resources from the NWF are always helpful. This includes written materials, the MMP Zoom meetings, and materials included in the emails from the NWF and MMP.

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.).

3150

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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.

Residents' yards, public parks, Mills Lawn Elementary School, community gardens, Wheeling Gaunt statue and garden, new pollinator prairie at Ellis pond, public library

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 community gardens are located near low income housing. Our community continues to be quite diverse with a BIPOC population of 11%. Our village is located near Agraria, a sustainable farming educational center that supports the BIPOC farming network and hosts programs for Black farmers.

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.)

800

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

I've tried to attend as many of the MMP Zoom meetings as possible. [They sometimes clash with my 4:00 Mayor's Court hearings.] Much of what I do is conversational education with the youth and adults who stop by my booth at our street fairs twice a year in addition to visiting the MMP booth during Earth Day and other habitat event booths I staff during the spring/summer.

Selected Action Items

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?

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

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.

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?

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.

I am a recreational golfer. When I travel to a new golf course whether in the area or out of state, I take a copy of the above 2 sided flyer and give it to the golf pro along with a few comments about supporting pollinators when designing changes to the course. Many are rewilding areas and it's so encouraging to see the pollinator habitats emerging instead of always-tidy annual plants arranged in rows and filling planters. Locally, our NWFF community habitat group has installed a new prairie at a local park to serve as a water filter on the slope down to the pond. The photo shows 3 of our team seeding and weeding during this, the prairie's first year. Our village Public Works Dept. worked with our habitat group to support our weeding this summer and they carefully incorporated the prairie into their mowing program, carefully clearing around the edges with their mowers.

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

Golf Courses MMP Flyer.pdf

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

Ellis-Pond_01.5.jpg

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

Yellow Springs Public Works Department Yellow Springs Hometown Habitat Community Yellow Springs Environmental Commission the 8 golf courses I visited this year in Michigan, Arizona and Ohio

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.

Down to Earth 10-24.pdf

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

MMP Action Items handout 2024.pdf

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

Honey Harvest 2024.jpg

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

Street Fair 2024.jpg

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

Wright Patt Pollinator Fair 2024.jpg

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

Trunk or Treat 2024.jpg

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

Our local YS NWF Community Habitat publishes a quarterly column entitled Down to Earth in the weekly newspaper. I've included the most recent column as an example since it

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mentions pollinators. I will be writing an upcoming column next year on the MMP and have submitted a column on Earth Day in a prior year-end report to you. I also included the copy of a handout I give out at our street fairs and other pollinator type fairs including Earth Day to explain the MMP and my yearly Action Items. I put this 2-sided document into a small plastic bag along with some butterfly stickers and a monarch magnet and give it out to children who stop by my booth. For the first time this year, our village held a Trunk or Treat Halloween event. I decorated the back of my car, put on my monarch wings and gave out candy. Next year I'll use butterfly stickers. I'm always asking the children questions about the monarchs. Usually they can answer! Surprise!

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.

Catherine Zimmerman of The Meadow Project (https://themeadowproject.com/author/) lives in Yellow Springs and has served on our Environmental Commission here in our village along with being a founder of our Hometown Habitat group.. She is instrumental in gaining our village's NWF Certification and supporting all things pollinator. At least once a week and usually more, we can see her out working on our new pollinator prairie or doing some other supportive task in village gardens. Our YS Habitat Community Network group meets quarterly. I attend these meetings to represent the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and share the efforts I support.

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

Ellis Prairie seeding w sign.jpg

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

YS Environmental Commission, Agraria, Glen Helen, Ohio DNR, Master Gardeners, Yellow Springs Tree Committee, Tecumseh Land Trust, Miami Township Trustees, Natural Burial group

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.

Any time a new housing development is being considered and then ultimately planned, natural/native plantings including pollinator friendly plants are discussed with the developer and included to the extent possible. We have two newer subdivisions that provide a good

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example of this: Ellis Pond Prairie (described in Action Item 6 above) and Thistle Creek subdivision.

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

Glass Farm sign at Thistle Creek.jpg

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

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

550

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

Yellow Springs Environmental Commission Earth Day Event, Tecumseh Land Trust

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

25 milkweed raffled off (free ticket given upon entry) and a plant sale was held on the morning of Earth Day celebration at our local Tecumseh Land Trust space.

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?

YS Environmental Commission of Village Council, individual residents (120 properties as of this count.)

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

YS Wildlife Habitat Community https://www.yswildlifehabitat.com/

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

4

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

There are 2 signs at the new Ellis Park Prairie and 2 at the Glass Farm next to the Thistle Creek subdivision. Sample signs below, including one I mounted next to the milkweed growing outside the Wellness Center at Antioch College. I did not report our NWF Community signs posted earlier in this document.

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

Milkweed ID sign.jpg

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