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 575 members--check us out! Many villagers are rewilding their properties under the leadership of our village Environmental Commission and at last count, we have over 120 NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat signs that 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 2025

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.
- 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 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 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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

3213

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.)

550

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

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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.

Ellis Village Park Prairie reseeded 2025, Bill Duncan Community Garden 20' x 20' demonstration plot for Mayor's Monarch Pledge, "...increase of 5 private residences who now bring the cumulative total to 123 certified habitat properties in the 45387 zip code," according to Bethany Gray who submitted our NWF certification paperwork for 2025.

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 low income housing We have a BIPOC population of 13% of our total residents are people of color

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

Our Community Wildlife Habitat supports the work of the MMP program as does our Environmental Commission and village council. This is an important part of our Village Values.

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?

Bimonthly Zoom meetings and all the resources on your web site. I also appreciate that you provide the "One-pagers" for our use at Earth Day type fairs and expos out in the community.

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

They were vastly interwoven with work by our local habitat group, Environmental Commission and our Community Wildlife Habitat group, also part of NWF.

Selected Action Items

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:

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

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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)

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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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.

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.

Mayor's discussion with village Environmental Commission and Council members who wanted to facilitate starting a public demonstration native plant garden in one of the community gardens. What resulted was Bill Duncan Park plot which was eventually planted with the help of children from the Yellow Springs Children's Center. (see prior Action items)

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.

Screenshot 2025-12-11 at 12-50-38 Butterfly Friendly – The Siebenthaler Company.png

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

Earth Day plant give-away.pdf

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

20

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

900

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

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1) Local garden center--Siebenthaler's --for Earth Day milkweed raffle plants donated by a local citizen. 2) YH Habitat Group for Earth Day event inclusion

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Planting map and info.pdf

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)

Bill Duncan Community Park (planting map above) --Pollinator Garden featuring milkweed and other monarch friendly plantings. This 20' x 20' plot is located in a community garden in our entry-way road into the village.

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

1) Village Council Environmental Commission, 2) Yellow Springs Children's Center, 3) Village Council

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.

.1

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.

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

Yellow Springs Habitat Group

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

6th year of Community Wildlife Habitat Recognition

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

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

Antioch milkweed patch.jpeg

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

Antioch College

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

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Three years ago I noticed about 3-4 errant common milkweed plants at the entrance to the Antioch Wellness Center on the Antioch College campus in our village. Since I went to the WC 5 days a week, I kept a close eye on the plants and had my clerk make a sign that said "These plants are milkweed. Please do not remove." Throughout the summer I kept a careful eye on the plants, harvesting their seeds in the late fall and scattering them around the ground on the circle under a beautiful maple tree where they were growing. The next year, the plants had quadrupled! This year, another sign, more seeding and more plants! I now will tend this circle as long as I'm going to the gym.

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.

MMP Native plant garden at Bill Duncan public park.jpg

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

Ellis Prairie.jpg

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

MMP planting.jpg

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

MMP planting 2.jpg

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

Two public venues were selected for MMP planting projects this year: 1) our pollinator prairie at Ellis Park, 2) Bill Duncan neighborhood community garden.

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

The community garden was planted with help from the local pre-school, who sent a class of 9 children over to "help plant." I as mayor, continued to maintain the plot throughout the summer. The village mows around the perimeter of the plot. Ellis Pollinator Prairie was weeded this year with members of the YS Hometown Habitat group. The village crew mowed the plot and hauled away our grass and weed piles.

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.

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

talking all things monarch.jpg

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

Discussing monarchs with Ms. Wheelchair Ohio at Pollinator Expo.jpg

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

Mini-Monarch Mayor.JPG

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

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Earth Day table, 2025.jpg

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

Earth Day 2025 discussions.jpg

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

1. Earth Day 2. Honey Harvest, Camp Greene 3. Wright Patterson Air Force Base Pollinator Fair 4. Village Trunk or Treat 5. Village Trick or Treat

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

At each of these venues, conversation and education took place with the individuals who participated. For example, literature from NWF was given out at Earth Day, the Honey Harvest and the Pollinator Fair. During Halloween, butterfly pencils were given out to Trick or Treaters and monarch-themed costumes were worn by the Mayor at the events along with display of Mayors' Monarch Pledge sign.

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.

MMP member of coordinating committee.jpg

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

As Mayor who has signed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, I attend bi-monthly meetings of the YS Habitat team and our Community Wildlife Habitat group through the NWF. As such, we publish periodic missives and columns for our Yellow Springs News ("Down to Earth") where information about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is included. Information is also disseminated at the Mayor's Earth Day table and other environmental fairs attended throughout the summer. See other posts in this document.

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