Town of Wallingford

Wallingford, CT

Mayor Vincent Cervoni

Pledge Summary

Wallingford, Connecticut, established in 1670, is one of the state's most historic communities, celebrated for its unique blend of preserved New England charm and strong industrial and technological heritage. The town takes pride in its community spirit, highlighted each autumn during Celebrate Wallingford, an annual festival that unites residents and visitors with food, music, crafts, and family-friendly activities in the heart of the Town Center. With a robust manufacturing base, reliable public utilities, and a prime location along the I-91 corridor and Amtrak's Hartford Line, Wallingford continues to honor its past while embracing opportunities for future growth. Mayor Vincent Cervoni has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Mayor Cervoni looks forward to encouraging residents to create pollinator gardens throughout the community.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 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

- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Vincent Cervoni	2026	12/30/2025

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.).

5000

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.)

25

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.

.15

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.

Community garden at Ashlar Village, student garden at Spanish Community of Wallingford and garden at Town Hall

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

We are leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to engage marginalized communities by partnering with the Ashlar Butterfly Club and the Spanish Community of Wallingford. Through this collaboration, we support the community garden and provide educational pollinator programming that is accessible and culturally inclusive. Activities include environmental music classes, presentations on the monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation, and participation in the Symbolic Monarch Migration program. These efforts help connect residents of diverse backgrounds with environmental stewardship while fostering awareness of the importance of monarch butterflies and other pollinators in our community.

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

Our community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge was to foster a supportive and sustainable environment for all pollinators, including

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the monarch butterfly. We recognize the critical role pollinators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and contributing to local food production. By participating in the pledge, we aim to expand and protect pollinator habitats, promote native plantings, and engage residents in conservation efforts that benefit monarch butterflies and other essential pollinator species for generations to come.

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 that have been most helpful to us thus far include the roadside habitat resources, the Guide to Issuing Proclamations, seed-saving guidelines, milkweed and monarch butterfly information, the Native Plant Finder, and hardiness zone resources. These tools have helped guide our habitat restoration efforts, support native planting initiatives, and provide educational information to our community about the importance of monarch butterflies and other pollinators. To help us meet our future goals, we would like to see additional community outreach ideas and best practices for partnering with local organizations, community groups, schools, and cultural institutions. We would also welcome more educational materials focused on pollinators, including ready-to-use resources for public programs, community events, and youth engagement activities. Resources that support inclusive and equitable outreach would help us expand participation in pollinator conservation efforts and increase access to high-quality, usable natural spaces for all residents.

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

Over the last year, the Town of Wallingford has strengthened its monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation efforts through collaboration and community engagement. We have partnered with the Ashlar Butterfly Club, the Wallingford Garden Club, the Spanish Community of Wallingford, Wallingford Center Inc., the Wallingford Public Library, town staff, and numerous community volunteers to educate residents about the importance of monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Through these partnerships, we have expanded outreach opportunities, supported the growth of community gardens throughout town, and provided educational programs that encourage environmental stewardship and habitat conservation. These collaborative efforts have helped increase awareness of pollinator needs, foster community involvement, and create more pollinator-friendly spaces that benefit monarch butterflies and other wildlife throughout Wallingford.

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:

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June 5, 2026

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors for Monarchs.pdf

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.)

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

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.

Wallingford Garden Club, Wallingford Center Inc., Ashlar Village Butterfly Club

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

The Town of Wallingford's monarch butterfly conservation efforts have been strengthened through active collaboration among community organizations, town staff, volunteers, and local partners. The Wallingford Garden Club worked closely with the Mayor's Office, town staff, and community volunteers to plan and establish the town's pollinator garden.

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Together, they prepared the garden plot, selected and mapped native plants, completed the planting, and continue to provide watering and ongoing maintenance to ensure the garden remains a healthy habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The Town of Wallingford's monarch butterfly conservation efforts have been strengthened through active collaboration among community organizations, town staff, volunteers, and local partners. The Wallingford Garden Club worked closely with the Mayor's Office, town staff, and community volunteers to plan and establish the town's pollinator garden. Together, they prepared the garden plot, selected and mapped native plants, completed the planting, and continue to provide watering and ongoing maintenance to ensure the garden remains a healthy habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. In addition, the Ashlar Butterfly Club partnered with Nature Works to select and obtain native plants for their community garden, which has been designated as a Monarch Waystation. The garden provides essential habitat for monarch butterflies by offering native milkweed and nectar sources that support all stages of the monarch life cycle. Through the establishment and maintenance of this Monarch Waystation, the Ashlar Butterfly Club helps expand pollinator habitat, promotes community education, and encourages residents to participate in conservation efforts. These collaborative efforts have increased awareness of monarch butterfly conservation, enhanced local pollinator habitat, and provided opportunities for residents to participate directly in environmental stewardship activities throughout the community.

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

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

200

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

2000

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

Spanish Community of Wallingford

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.

Pollinator Garden Before.jpg

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

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Carriage House Before March.jpeg

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)

45 South Main Street Wallingford

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

Ashlar Butterfly Club, Wallingford Garden Club, Community Volunteers, Mayor's Office Staff

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.

.02

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?

Ashlar Butterfly Club, Mayor's Office Staff, Spanish Community of Wallingford

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

50

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Two community gardens were prepared, one at Ashlar Village, planned and maintained by the Ashlar Butterfly Club. And the other at the Spanish Community of Wallingford. The Ashlar Butterfly Club worked with Natureworks, Ashlar gardening staff and resident volunteers to plan and execute this garden. The Spanish Community of Wallingford staff and students collaborated with the Ashlar Butterfly Club, Wallingford Department of Public Works to prepare, plan and execute the community garden.

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