Denville

Denville, NJ

Mayor Thomas Andes

Pledge Summary

The Township of Denville, known as the "Hub of Morris County," is located halfway between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. This 12.74 square mile suburban community is the home of 17,000 residents. The Environmental Commission is very excited to begin the process to rejuvenate the Monarch Butterfly population in our yards, parks and open space.

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.

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

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Thomas Andes	2026	2/11/2026	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

200

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.)

40

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.

.04

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.

A town park (Denville Park Meadow, Valley View Middle School, and milkweed plants and seeds were distributed to residents for their yards.

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

We haven't engaged these communities specifically, but the tree seedlings and milkweed plants we provided for free were for all residents and the pollinator gardens and new interpretive signs are available for use by anyone.

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

It was a way for our Environmental Commission to continue our recent work focusing on the importance of native plants and educating of the harm of invasive plants. When we heard of the program we thought it would be a good opportunity and an attainable goal for 2026. It has also increased the rapport between the Mayor, the Town Council, and the Environmental Commission.

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?

Funding is always needed. We are lucky to have a small budget provided by our town and also received grant money this year to install two new interpretive signs and provide free milkweed plant plugs and seed packets. Volunteers are also a needed resource. We are

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also lucky to have our Beautification Committee who was able to do the physical work of preparing and planting our gardens. For promotional materials, we liked a brochure called 'Protecting Monarchs: What You Can Do to Support Monarch Butterflies' provided by the Monarch Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).

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

Other efforts that we completed that are not recorded in the action items below include hosting a butterfly craft table for kids at our town's July 4th Semiquincentennial event. The kids were able to color wearable butterfly wings and masks and we provided free milkweed seed packets to residents. We also hosted a 'Monarch Month Celebration' event on October 17th during which we unveiled the two new signs at our expanded pollinator gardens, the Mayor read our Monarch Month Proclamation, we distributed free milkweed plant plugs and seed packets to residents, and also had the childen's crafts available and monarch color by number/crossword puzzles/coloring pages as well.

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:

9/15/2026

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

Proclamation Declaring October as Monarch Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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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.

26 1021 The Citizen article on Monarch Month Celebration.pdf

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

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

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

Pollinator Garden Expansion.jpg

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)

The gardens are located at Denville Park Meadow, 20 Riverside Drive, Denville, NJ 07834. The coordinates are: 40.89624614165679, -74.47505417596085.

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

The Denville Environmental Commission (DEC) and Green Sustainability Committee collaborated with the Denville Beautification Committee (DBC) who installed the gardens. The DBC also received volunteer help from Celebrate the Children school and the Morris Knolls HS Interact Club. The DEC also received grant money from the PSEG Foundation through Sustainable Jersey to install two interpretive signs on monarchs and pollinators at the gardens.

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.

.03

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.

Denville Native-Invasive Plant Ordinance Ord. No. 03-25.pdf

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

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The Environmental Commission worked with the Mayor and Town Council.

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

Complete

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.

The ordinance was adopted on 2/18/2025. The township is prohibited from purchasing invasive plant species (as listed on the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team's "Do Not Plant List") and also commits to using at least 70% native plant species in all new in-ground plantings on township-owned property. These regulations also apply to all applications with landscaping elements presented to the Township Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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.

2026 Sign Dedication FLYER_FINAL.png

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

150

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

65

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

Our tree seedling giveaway was combined with a dedication ceremony for two interpretive signs we installed using a grant from the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions. ANJEC staff attended as well as our Mayor, Environmental Commission, Green Team, and the Valleyview Middle School Green Team.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

2

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

Using grant money from the PSEG Foundation through Sustainable Jersey, we purchased and installed 2 interpretive signs from the company Vacker Signs. One is strictly on monarchs, their life cycle and migration, and the other is on pollinators in general and how individuals can support them. https://vackersign.com/products/designed-nature-signs/

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