Village of Island Lake

Island Lake, IL

Mayor Richard McLaughlin

Pledge Summary

The Friendly Village of Island Lake is a small community of roughly 1,850 residents located in the north eastern part of Illinois. It is home to a varied landscape that includes a lake, many attractive parks, a thriving community garden, and fertile farmland. We support planting native Illinois plants in our community garden and throughout our park system, and plan to expand our efforts into the future. On a personal note, Mayor McLaughlin and his family have been raising and releasing Monarchs at their Island Lake home for the last ten years.

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.
- 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

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Richard McLaughlin	2026	4/17/2026	

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.

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

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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?

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.).

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.

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

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.)

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

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):

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.

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

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

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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

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