

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, more than one billion Eastern monarch butterflies migrated to Mexico, but in recent years the number has dropped to as low as 56 million - a decrease of more than 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, monarchs have lost an estimated 165 million acres of breeding habitat in the United States to herbicide spraying and development; and

WHEREAS, monarch caterpillars exclusively eat the leaves of milkweed and adult butterflies feed on flower nectar, including milkweed and native plants; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns and counties have a critical role to play to help save the monarch butterfly, and a number of organizations, schools and individuals in Glen Ridge have already launched projects to support monarchs including planting pollinator gardens at Clay and Benson Street parks, Freeman Gardens, and our schools, selling native pollinator plants at our annual 2024 Arts and EcoFair, and registering properties to be part of Glen Ridge's "Pollinator Pathway"; and

WHEREAS, monarch butterflies, as well as other butterfly species, bees, birds and bats, help move pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing flowers and making it possible for plants to produce food needed to feed people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, every resident of Glen Ridge can make a difference for the monarch by planting native milkweed and native nectar and pollinator plants to provide habitat for the monarch and pollinators in locations where people live, work, learn, play and worship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEBORAH MANS, as Mayor of the Borough of Glen Ridge, along with members of the Borough Council, do hereby sign the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge; and I encourage other city officials across our great nation to take a stand with me to ensure that future generations have the chance to enjoy this iconic butterfly.

Deborah Mans, Mayor