



Mayors' Monarch Pledge Update

Since the 2025 Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation was issued this spring, the Environmental Commission has been hard at work mapping out what “action items” we will undertake. The National Wildlife Federation provides a list of 30 potential action items, and they require participants to complete a minimum of three items annually.

One action item that we have selected relates to the ongoing work to remove invasive species from around the perimeter of Lake Lily. This is a multi-year restoration project that will greatly benefit plants/trees and wildlife.

So far, the work has largely been accomplished by three stalwart volunteers (pictured below...Catherine Busch, Elise Geiger and Peg Fraatz). They meet every Monday on the west side of the lake at 9:30 am. You are welcome to join them any Monday; just bring sturdy garden gloves and some pruning shears!

This work is important because, as noted by the New Jersey Audubon Society, “the lake is a strategically important resource” to wildlife, including Monarchs, in our community. The objective of the Invasive Patrol Group is to restore this important wildlife habitat by removing non-native, invasive plants that are threatening to choke out beneficial native plants that are an important food source for birds and insects.

As areas around the lake are cleared, the Environmental Commission (and potentially other community groups) will help fund new plants/shrubs/trees that will be planted by Public Works. This newly-planted native greenery will support insects (including butterflies), birds and other wildlife.

If you see the Invasive Patrol folks hard at work on an upcoming Monday, please be sure to thank them for helping to restore beneficial habitat for our beloved Monarchs.

