City of Sanford

Sanford, FL

Mayor Art Woodruff

Pledge Summary

Sanford, a charming city in central Florida with a population of 61,051, is nestled along the scenic Lake Monroe, a tributary of the St. Johns River. Boasting over 300 acres of picturesque parks, the city offers residents and visitors a serene escape into nature. Among its many attractions are a vibrant Community Garden and dedicated Monarch Butterfly gardens, highlighting Sanford's status as the 9th designated Monarch City USA in Florida. The city's commitment to preserving pollinators and protecting the Monarch Butterfly population is truly commendable. By encouraging residents to create pollinator habitats throughout the area, Sanford sets an inspiring example of how communities can come together to nurture biodiversity and sustainability.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Art Woodruff	2026	2/26/2026	
Mayor Art Woodruff	2025	3/20/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Art Woodruff	2024	4/30/2024	Signatories
Mayor Art Woodruff	2023	12/6/2022	Signatories
Mayor Art Woodruff	2022	1/18/2022	Signatories
Mayor Art Woodruff	2021	3/30/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

100

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.)

30

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.

.5

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.

We have done 68 containers and 3 right-of-ways, 3 common areas in a park

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

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We have 2 right-of-way butterfly gardens in the community

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

We want to bring color to all areas of our City.

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?

Citizen Academy

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

We are continuing to add color and plants to bring in more butterflies.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

A total of 68 given away at two events.

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

100

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

Citizen Academy

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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.

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

Resized_20240110_135225.jpeg

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

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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)

Two of the areas are in round-a-bouts and at a community center

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

None. City employees planted in several different areas throughout the City of Sanford

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.

1

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

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I'm new in this position and have not had a chance to get out and plant with anyone yet, other than staff.

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.

None at this time. I'm new in this position and working on this.

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

I have not had the chance to get with any of the groups yet. I'm new to this position.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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.

Resized_20250312_124037.jpeg

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

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

Citizens Academy

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

Completed

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

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below.

It was completed on September 22nd of 2025, and the Citizens Academy attendees were allowed to take home the butterfly gardens to help bring in more pollinators

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

This was completed on Sept 22, 2025

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

CRA worked with local artist to create artwork for the downtown area and RiverWalk Trail

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

1

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

CRA worked with local artist to create artwork for the downtown area the RiverWalk Trail

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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.

Resized_20240110_135225.jpeg

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

Mow height.txt

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

I and my City staff planted native nectar plants in a round-a-bout and in front of a Community Center (Velma Williams). I have wrote and set up a mowing schedule, and irrigation system checks.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

I and my City staff have planted several nectar plants throughout the city. I have done a mowing height adjustment to help with reintroducing natural nutrients back into the turf.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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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Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

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111 Country Club Cir. and 174 Country Club Cir Sanford FL 32771

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.10

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

We weed them out every other week. Irrigate them every other day.

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