

# Town of Southwest Ranches

Southwest Ranches, FL

Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

## Pledge Summary

The Town of Southwest Ranches is committed to promoting and protecting the rural lifestyle of our residents while preserving the natural environment. Following through on this commitment, the goals and objectives of Southwest Ranches' Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Department are to provide benefit to our residents and visitors through exemplary management and maintenance of the Town's Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources including public lands, the Town's Urban Forest, and the diverse wildlife that makes its home here, while cultivating a vibrant community and sense of place. The Town's Community Wildlife Habitat Program, including our participation in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge program, plays a central role in helping residents address the needs of wildlife in our community. Our Community Wildlife Habitat team works to create awareness through the Town's website, newsletter, and using opportunities for public outreach at annual events.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### Communications and Convening

- 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2026	12/8/2025	
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2025	1/22/2025	Signatories
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2024	3/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2023	12/22/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2022	2/24/2022	Signatories
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	2021	4/2/2021	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 number of individuals reached in the answer field below (e.g., 50).**

7502

**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." (Only allow numerical values.)**

210 youth, 7292 adults

**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).**

2

**Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.**

Parks and other Town-owned properties, single family residences

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

N/A, however we participate in county wide programs and the programs reach thousands in all 31 surrounding communities in the county.

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

our Mayor was keen!

**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?**

receiving the direct emails which are sharable to our community and to the elected officials. This means the topic stays fresh when there is always something new to share.

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

The Town has initiated efforts through our existence that have been and were planned to be beneficial to wildlife, include pollinators such as monarchs. I have great concerns that the demographic of new property owners moving in place a much higher value on economic benefit and the prioritization of property rights than on the importance of habitat for any other species. This campaign is assisting me to continue taking action to create awareness for residents of Southwest Ranches.

## Selected Action Items

**Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.**

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

[SWMS aerial for shrub trim.jpg](#)

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

[Job\\_DykesRoadWestto163rdPruningofshrubsalongfenceline\\_EDJ\\_ProposalFusion\\_Tree.pdf](#)

**What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants?**

2.6 acres of new invasive exotics removal in a 26 acre park site.

**Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.**

The project entails removal of invasive exotics such as Brazilian Pepper, bischofia, vines and other invasive along the entire northern boundary of the Town's 26 acre Southwest Meadows Sanctuary and Preserve park site. Not previously funded, the Town has allotted

funding for this project and will continue its maintenance into the future. Hand pulling, cutting and uprooting are the methods of removal.

**Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).**

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

[RE\\_ \[EXTERNAL\] Congratulations – Your Community Is Re-Certified as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat.pdf](#)

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

Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board, Town Administration, and Council

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

Recertification of Southwest Ranches as a Community Wildlife Habitat

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

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

[2023-12-15 13.41.56.jpg](#)

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

[2023-12-15 13.42.05.jpg](#)

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

[2023-12-15 13.42.56.jpg](#)

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

Recreation Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board. Southwest Ranches Town Administration

**How many plants were planted?**

30

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

we received native milkweed plants from a local source and planted them at our demonstration garden at Town Hall. The plants have thrived and supported multiple generations of monarchs through the year. Additionally we have collected and shared seeds of these plants with some of our residents.

**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.**

[230131-Bankcard Voucher Jesse Durko's Nursery.xlsx](#)

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

[230131-Bankcard Voucher The Bushel Stop.xlsx](#)

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

[230131-Publix Event Supplies.xlsx](#)

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

[230128 - TH beds planting.pdf](#)

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

[action 1.jpg](#)

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

[action 3.jpg](#)

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

[troop 224 \(2\).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)**

13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL. The habitat is on the Town Hall site. Visibility in the community is high. the surrounding areas are residential and the site is nestled amongst homes with many residents who do, and many residents who do not understand the importance of creating and maintaining habitat for pollinators. at the eastern edge of the florida everglades, Southwest Ranches is an important stopover point for migratory and resident species.

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

Boy Scout Troop 224, Southwest Ranches Recreation, Forestry, and Natural Resources Advisory Board. Town Administration and Council

**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.**

1

**Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.**

**Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)**

Rolling Oaks Park 17630 SW 56 Street, Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

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

Town Staff and Advisory Board personal, kids club groups, scout troops 224 and 160

**What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones.**

1

**How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)**

1

**Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.**

The "lot" converted to monarch habitat used to be a livestock pasture. It is now maintained as a pollinator garden and passive outdoor educational area.

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

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

Auto accident damaged plantings in the Right of Way. The Town maintains diverse native nectar plants such as firebush, cocoplum, serenoa repens in these areas. The natives were replanted, and a certain amount of native wildflowers are also allowed to thrive within these planted areas (spanish needles, blue mistflower, buttonbush).

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

16

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

Less than one acre

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

Mowing of the ground cover takes place 24 times per year, but native plantings are not pruned, are allowed to bloom and cycle through flowering and fruiting.

**Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).**

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

[2023-03-11 13.17.56.jpg](#)

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

[2023-03-11 13.20.17.jpg](#)

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

[2023 WMD Booth Map - FINAL.pdf](#)

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

The Town of Southwest Ranches represents for Wildlife Habitat Certification and education

**How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"?**

20

**Please list the names of the schools you are working with.**

we work with local scout troops (224 and 160) and with students with community service requirement from Archbishop McCarthy High School West Broward High School Hawke's Bluff Elementary School

**What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?**

We have printed materials from NWF and also from various sources that are shared with us from Broward County and other organizations

**How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).**

210 students , 20 leaders

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

Sunshine Ranches Homeowners Association, Rolling Oaks Civic Association, Country Estates Homeowners Association

**How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.**

.1

**What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?**

Maintenance cycle is 28 times per year, and the area is replanted annually as needed

**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.**

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

3: Town Administration, Town Advisory Board; homeowner association;

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

We recruit individuals within the organizations in the community to serve on our NWF task force.; We reduced maintenance on two of our sites (a total of about 2 acres) to allow for bloom of pollinator nectar sources and created an educational program/ incentive for homeowners who do likewise by printing and passing out signs to educate the public about pollinator habitat.