Town of Southwest Ranches

Southwest Ranches, FL

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

Pledge Summary

Southwest Ranches is a semi-rural community in western Broward County with a population of under 8,000. Southwest Ranches is home to 150 acres of preserved park land, including 3 properties for which the County has bestowed Emerald awards for our stewardship of wildlife habitat. Southwest Ranches residents receive monthly information regarding the importance of conservation for pollinators, and have multiple public properties upon which best management practices are demonstrated. Additionally, southwest Ranches works closely with Broward County doing outreach regarding habitat creation and preservation.

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.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- 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.
- 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).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

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.)

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.

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?

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

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?

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

Selected Action Items

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Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

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.

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

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

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

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.

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.

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

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IMG_20251210_115715.jpg

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

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What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

15

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.

Improvement of Town properties that have become or are becoming invaded by invasive exotic plant species. Approximately 15 acres across four different sites were included for removal of invasive exotics that have proliferated on shared fencelines, or on portions of Town properties that have not benefitted from development or maintenance. In some cases, overgrowth on neighboring properties contributes to the proliferation on Town sites. Removal was accomplished by cutting trees and removal of overgrown invasive exotic vegetation by mechanical means

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.

[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?

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

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

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

ORD-2025-008.pdf

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

The Town of Southwest Ranches

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

complete

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 below.

May 8, 2025. The Town's Dark Skies Ordinanace was amended by adding and modifying lighting intensity standards, establishing prohibited lighting practices and providing for compliance measures.

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:

February 12, 2026

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Proclamation protecting Monarch butterflies

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

012226-Agenda-Full-FINAL-AMENDED.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Butterfly.pdf

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