City of Fort Lauderdale

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Mayor Dean Trantalis

Pledge Summary

Incorporated on March 27, 1911, encompassing approximately 36 square miles with an estimated population of 186,220, Fort Lauderdale is the largest of Broward County's 31 municipalities and one of the ten largest cities in Florida. Embraced by the Atlantic Ocean, New River and a myriad of scenic inland waterways, Fort Lauderdale truly lives up to its designation as the "Venice of America." Mayor Trantalis has committed to raise awareness for the monarch butterfly by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and continuing to build community support for increased butterfly habitats throughout the City. Community Spotlight: The Snyder Park Butterfly Garden and educational program was made possible through key partnerships with the National Recreation and Parks Association, Kids Ecology Corps, and Flamingo Road Nursery.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

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- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2026	3/27/2026	
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2025	3/26/2025	Signatories
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2023	12/9/2022	Signatories
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2022	1/19/2022	Signatories
Mayor Dean Trantalis	2021	4/23/2021	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.).

5000

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.)

1500

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.

Schools, residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), and parks.

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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Westwood Heights Elementary school and North Fork Elementary school and their new butterfly gardens serve children from communities of color.

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

Policy Con 4.1.3 in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element provides as follows: "The City will ensure that appropriate measures are enacted and enforced to protect species of importance and their habitats, including, but not limited to: manatees, sea turtles, terns, and migratory bird flyways; measures may include lighting, … restoration and rehabilitation of habitats, such as eelgrass, reef, and mangrove, and species populations." Policy Con 4.1.4 in the City of Fort Lauderdale's Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element provides as follows: "The City shall continue to identify and manage plant and wildlife species in city-owned natural areas."

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?

Community support and engagement have been most helpful through our HOAs and Civic Associations.

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

Having a resident Monarch population in Florida, provides year-round opportunities to enhance and support their habitat.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

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

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.

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

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.

Master Gardeners, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club, Heal the Planet.

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

Several events throughout the year engaged various local groups in different capacities: Neighbor Support Night was supported by our Master Gardeners with staffing to give away native trees and wildflower packets. Butterfly/Pollinator Garden plantings at two local elementary schools were a collaboration with the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club and other volunteer groups orchestrated by the City's Chief Service Officer. At the Heal the Planet Earth Day event on April 21, native wildflower seed packets were distributed to increase nectar sources throughout the City.

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

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

photo 2.jpg

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

photo1.jpg

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

photo 1.jpg

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

Collaborated with the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club and school administrators to plant butterfly/pollinator gardens at two local schools, Westwood Heights and North Fork Elementary Schools. Both nectar-producing plants and larval food sources were planted by volunteers to support the City's year-round Monarch populations.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Snyder ParkBG signage.jpeg

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

Various HOAs and civic groups participate through the City's Green Your Routine incentive program.

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

The dedicated volunteers at Snyder Park donated 138 hours of their time in 2024 to plant and maintain the Butterfly Garden, in addition to routine maintenance by City Parks Staff.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Over 600 packets of native wildflower seeds were distributed at 3 separate events: Neighbor Support Night, Earth Day and Water Matters Day.

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

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

Neighbor Support Night is a city-sponsored event. Wildflower seed packets and tree giveaways were provided by the City and distribution supported by our local Master Gardeners. The Earth Day event was sponsored by Heal the Planet, a local CBO, and Water Matters Day is sponsored by Broward County.

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.

2023 recertified_certificate (3).pdf

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

Attended meetings and coordinated efforts with Broward County NatureScapes Coordinator, Anthony Gross.

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

The City is in the process of recertifying for 2024 as a NWF Community Habitat.

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.

Snyder ParkBG signage.jpeg

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)

The Butterfly Garden at Snyder Park is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers from across the City and the City Parks staff.

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

Volunteers at Snyder Park earn service credits through the Green Your Routine program.

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.

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

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

Sea Turtle Flyer.pdf

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

During sea turtle nesting season, March 1 through October 31, the City works hand-in hand with Broward County Natural Resources Division and Sea turtle Conservancy to identify and correct the areas that impact the nests with non-compliant artificial lighting.

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

Ongoing throughout Sea Turtle nesting season.

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

Sea Turtle nesting season ends on October 31

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