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 raising 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 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

- 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

- 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 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.).

500

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.)

125

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.

0.75

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, parks, and private lands.

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

Distribution of free native milkweed seed packets to students and residents at schools and events gives the team an opportunity to raise awareness that Florida has both migratory AND resident monarch butterfly populations.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

Earth Day 2025 Heal the Planet 1.jpg

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

20250306_152137747_iOS.jpg

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

Native Florida Milkweed and wildflower seed packets were distributed at multiple events throughout 2025: the City's Neighbor Support Night event in February, 2025; Three separate Arbor Day events at local public schools in April, 2025. Additional Mikweed seed distributions occurred at various Neighborhood Civic Association events such as the Imperial Point Harvest Festival in October, 2025.

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.

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

NatureScape Meeting Flyer.jpeg

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

On August 14, 2025 at the Broward County Naturescape meeting presentations were given to the public by State, County, and City Staff. Laura Tooley, Fort Lauderdale's Urban Forester joined a panel discussion with other municipal arborists from nearby communities to discuss the role of the urban forest as habitat.

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

Broward County NatureScape provides support throughout the County to enhance conservation efforts. The City of Fort Lauderdale has partnered with them, providing mutual

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support for monarch conservation.

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.

9021 NSN 2025_Flyer_01052024 WEB.pdf

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

150

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

300

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

Mayor and City Commissioners, City Manager's Office, City Staff, Master Gardeners, City and Green Your Routine volunteers.

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.

FortLauderdale 2025 Certificate.pdf

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

Broward County NatureScape

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

The City of Fort Lauderdale celebrated its 10th year as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat in 2025.

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

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location.

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

Snyder Park Butterfly Garden.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)

Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

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

Green Your Routine volunteers, Master Gardeners, Heal the Planet

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.

0.03

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