

# City of Orlando

Orlando, FL

Sustainability Project Manager Daniel Friedline

## Pledge Summary

Orlando, located within Central Florida, has a population of roughly 285,000. The city has more than 100 lakes, and over 148 parks beautiful parks, gardens, recreation areas, neighborhood centers and playgrounds. It is home to the world renown Harry P. Leu Gardens, an amazing 50-acre botanical oasis, as well as the Orlando Easterly Wetlands . Mayor Buddy Dyer of Orlando, FL has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout our City beautiful!

## Action Items Committed for 2022

### Communications and Convening

- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Buddy Dyer	2023	4/4/2023	
Sustainability Project Manager Daniel Friedline	2022	1/10/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Buddy Dyer	2021	12/21/2020	

## 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).**

5120

**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.)**

120youth 5000adult

**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).**

.02

**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.**

schools, community gardens, right of ways, parks, yards

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

by providing free plants and seeds within these communities as well as creating additional greenspaces with wildlife habitat areas within

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

Creating outdoor greenspaces for residents which help to provide wildlife habitats and peaceful and beautiful places for residents

**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 partnerships

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

Positive program

## **Selected Action Items**

**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.**

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

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

The City of Orlando has 12 community gardens on City-owned property. This year the Rock Lake community garden was renovated and provided with native pollinator plants and milkweed plants enough to fill two 4'x8' garden beds. Native plants and milkweed plants were also grown this year at the following community center gardens: Northwest, Hankins, Smith, Englewood, Jackson, Wadeview, and Colonialtown. Students who are involved in the afterschool gardening programs helped plant and maintain these plants for the year.

**Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.**

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

City Leadership

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

In Action

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

Commit to a reduction in certain herbicides that may be harmful or toxic to pollinators as well as humans. 2023 will be the target year for completion.

**Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.**

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

[Ravenall Park Map.pdf](#)

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

Parks Division Staff

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

In progress

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

Create a protected no mow area at the Ravenall lot (10 Acres total) which will provide crucial habitat for pollinators and wildlife here in Orlando. 2023 is the target year.

**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?**

Community Garden Leadership

**How many plants were planted?**

500

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

All community gardens have been planted with some for of pollinator-friendly plants and plants have been planted by students in after school gardening programs at the following community center gardens: Engelwood, Wadeview, Smith, Jackson, Colonialtown, Hankins, Northwest. Over 500 plants have been installed through the year.

**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).**

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

City Leadership and National Wildlife Foundation

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

National Wildlife Foundation Community Wildlife Habitat

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

**How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?**

Native Seeds

**How many people attended your event?**

5000

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

Florida Wildflower Foundation and the Special Olympics 2022

**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.**

City Parks Division, City Real Estate, Dubsdread Golf Course and Office of Sustainability

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

Dubsdread Golf Course has provided three areas that are placed as no-mow areas and are now planted with native pollinator plants and shrubs to provide necessary habitats. City Parks are now being evaluated to estimate the possibility of installing milkweed plants and other pollinatr plants in more regular interverals.

**Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.**

**How many people attended your event?**

5

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Milkweed, Gallardia and Tickseed

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

Office of Sustainability and Resilience for City of Orlando

**Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.**

Collection areas included the Native plant area at the Greenroof on top of Fire Station 1 in downtown Orlando as well as the pollinator habitat area at Fire Station 2 in Parramore.

**Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.**

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

Gertrude's Walk in Downtown Orlando

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

City District, Orlando City Soccer and the Office of Sustainability and Resilience

**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 vacant dirt areas on Gertrude's Walk were planted in Septemeber and maintenance is conducted weekly by the City Clean Team.

**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)**

78 W Central BLVD

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

Office of sustainability and Resilience and Black Bee Honey

**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.**

.02

**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.**

Engaged Florida Wildflower Foundation, Dusbsread Golf Course, College Park Neighborhood Association and Office of Sustainability to plan and create a native wildflower habitat at the Golf Course near Tee 14.

**Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.**

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

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**Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.**

Three plots of land within the West Orlando area have been acquired over the last year and have been transformed into a pollinator education area. An apiary has been installed within the area and will be used by the Black Bee Honey students that work within the area to manage the beehives and provide honey to the surrounding low-income area. The area will also have a pollinator field which will be used over the next year to grow and collect seeds from native wildflowers which can be given away to the surrounding community. A pollinator area has been created on the rooftop of the Firestation 1 downtown and is now a rooftop apiary for the Black Bee Honey Students which operate out of the West Orlando area which has been historically a low income and minority area in Orlando.

## **Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.**

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

[plant sign pic.pdf](#)

**How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located?**

4

**Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).**

Signs have been placed at areas planted with Native pollinator plants with one area being the Dubsdread Golf Course. This course now has three large areas that have been planted with pollinator plants for a designated wildlife area and are marked with City approved signage.