Miami-Dade County

Miami, FL

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

Pledge Summary

With an estimated population of 2.7 million residents, Miami-Dade County is the most populous county east of Chicago and the seventh largest in the nation by population. Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties comprise the Miami - Fort Lauderdale - Pompano Beach, Florida Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the nation's seventh largest MSA and fourth largest urbanized area, with a total population of nearly 6.2 million. Approximately 424 square miles(excluding bay and coastal waters) of the County are within the urbanized area, while the total county area currently covers a total of 2,431 square miles, bound by Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Everglades National Park to the west, the Florida Keys to the south and Broward County to the north. Miami-Dade County has the unique distinction of being the only metropolitan area in the United States that borders two national parks: Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park. Collectively we champion Pollinator-friendly parks, preserves, and other areas, which include activities such as creating flower-rich habitats, providing places for nesting and egg laying, reducing the use of pesticides in parks and greenspaces; and then engaging park patrons and community members in this important conservation work.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor of Miami-Dade County Daniella Levine Cava	2025	1/24/2025	Signatories
Mayor, Miami-Dade County Daniella Levine Cava	2024	4/29/2024	Signatories
Mayor Daniella Levine Cava	2023	1/6/2023	Signatories
Mayor Daniella Levine Cava	2022	3/2/2022	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.).

1500

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.)

500 youth and 1000 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). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

2

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.

Within Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) and The Miami Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), Division of Environmental Resources (DERM) County's Environmentally Endangered Lands.

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

The Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) is leveraging the program by planting butterfly gardens in low-income communities and communities of color. Additionally, workshops are conducted in low-income communities and communities of color.

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

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Conservation and preservation of natural resources is possible by education and awareness for the community. Part of creating a resilient, healthy community is to engage community members in actions that the community can do individually and collectively to improve the South Florida natural environment.

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?

AD Barnes Park: Guides on proper native milkweed and native plants distributed to all; Bill Sadowski Park: Monthly site visits with PROS staff / Natural Areas Manager for Bill Sadowski Park, to discuss planting opportunities and ideas for pollinator plants around the nature center and butterfly garden. ; Castellow: Coordination with UF-IFAS, Connect to Protect (Fairchild Tropical Garden), local plant nurseries.

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

AD Barnes Park: The previously established connect to protect garden was maintained; Castellow Hammock Park: It focuses on all types of pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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 5,000, which included Swamp milkweed; native and Florida-friendly pollinator plants; orchids were distributed; and over 3000 trees.

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

3000

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

University of Florida (UF)/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS Extension Office), Connect to Protect, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida. • PROS' Zoo Miami is a founding member of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums' AZA Safe: Saving Animals from Extinction North American Monarch Program, which facilitates increased conservation efforts across zoos, aquariums, their professional networks, and their communities nationwide. • The County's Parks Department in partnership with the University of Florida / IFAS provides programs that educate the public on community-friendly gardening - Plant lists, design and gardening tips, and butterfly guides are available through the University of Florida / IFAS Florida-

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Friendly Landscaping™ Program's website and free Butterfly Gardens mobile web app. • University of Florida / IFAS also provides the Master Gardener Program – a title granted by UF to individuals who complete the Master Gardener training curriculum and satisfy a specified number of volunteer hours. They then mentor and train others. The curriculum includes Flower & vegetable gardening, Plant selection, Insect, disease, & weed identification, Least-toxic pest control, Pesticide & fertilizer use, Composting, recycling & mulching amongst other important pollinator-friendly best gardening practices.

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).

• University of Florida / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) staff regularly conduct in-person and virtual educational programs to the community on pollinators, including education on Monarch butterflies, and providing pollinator plants for schools and for pollinator gardens at parks. • Zoo Miami launched the “Tropical Milkweed Initiative” in 2022 which helped eliminate the invasive and harmful tropical milkweed from Zoo Miami grounds. A presentation was also made to PROS staff via the Monday pin-up lecture series that informed other PROS park managers and planners about the benefit to Monarchs by eliminating this species from our properties. • Zoo Miami staff gave presentations on Lepidoptera research programs at Arctiinae Research Community Conference, iSwarm, and the Pine Rockland Working Group conferences. • Zoo Miami was awarded a $300,000 grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Sciences (with co-awardees the University of Florida’s McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity) that will be funding a series of workshops over two years which will convene conservationists, marketing professionals and educators to develop effective and behavior changing national marketing strategies to benefit Monarchs and other pollinators. • Every March, in partnership with the Dade Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, PROS hosts “Native Plant Day,” a full day of educational programs, walks, displays, and plant sales, to the public. To ensure equitable distribution of this conservation action throughout the community, this annual event is hosted on a rotating basis by Bill Sadowski Park (south zone), A.D. Barnes Park (central zone) and our partner City of North Miami Beach Elaine Gordon Park in the northern end of Miami-Dade County.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

The Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Environmental Resources (RER) Department's Resiliency Office in coordination with RER-DERM continually works with

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County agencies and partners to update the County’s resilience policies and documents to include the preservation and enhancement of habitat important for Monarchs.

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.

The Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) is working with RER-DERM (the Division of Environmental Resources Management) on updating various County documents regarding pollinators. Target date is September 30, 2024. Pollinator gardens are located in multiple County Parks, including at Zoo Miami, Arch Creek Park, and A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park (with more planned elsewhere). ZooMiami maintains a colony of atala hairstreak butterflies that serve as a source for reintroductions across the county and through public release events on zoo grounds as part of the Connect to Protect program. • Community pollinator gardens are maintained at the following parks Department Nature Centers: • Arch Creek Park - Xeriscape project, Pollinator garden surrounding the museum, and Natural area provides pollinator habitat/preserve • A.D. “Doug” Barnes Park - Pollinator Gardens: A.D. Barnes North, in nature center atrium, and in canoe planter, natural area, provides pollinator habitat/preserve, and restoration of natural areas • Bill Sadowski Park - Pollinator garden next to Nature Center, natural area, provide pollinator habitat/preserve • Castellow Hammock Park - Pollinator garden in front of Nature Center and natural area provides pollinator habitat/preserve • Crandon Park - South Beach: Crandon Gardens and area surrounding the South Beach concession and North Beach: Nature Center and Bear Cut Preserve • PROS’ staff at Deering Estate maintained three pollinators and a community butterfly garden on-site at Deering. Several have coontie within them to help the Atala Butterfly populations; in 2023, PROS Deering Estate staff expanded their planting of native pollinator plants in three areas of the park with specific species grown in the propagation station.

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