Miami-Dade County

Miami, FL

Mayor, Miami-Dade County 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 2024

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.).

1200

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

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.

1.5

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.

The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) is where the habitat was created

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

PROS is leveraging the program by creating habitat and butterfly gardens in its Neighborhood and Community Parks and in low-income communities and communities of color. Additionally, in collaboration with the PROS' Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Division, workshops are being conducted in those areas.

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

Conservation and preservation of natural resources is possible by education and awareness for the community. Part of creating a resilient, healthy community is to

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engagecommunity members in actions that the community can do indiviudually and collectively to improve the Miami-Dade County and 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?

Continuing efforts at AD Barnes Park, providing guides on proper native milkweed and native plants in events and plant giveaways. Monthlysite visits with PROS staff and the Natural Areas Manager at Bill Sadowski Park. Native plant giveaways at the Earth Day event at Larry and Penny Thompson Park. Coordination with UF-IFAS in discussions and plant workshops for planting ideas for pollinator plants around PROS nature centers.

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

Continuing efforts at AD Barnes Park on the previously established "connect to protect" garden has been maintained, and at Castello Hammock Nature Center and Park the focus for plantings is on all types of pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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).

The Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) Zoo Miami continues with the Tropical Milkweed Initiative that removes invasive and harmful tropical milkweed from Zoo Miami grounds. The UF-IFAS cooperative extension unit continues to 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 in parks. Every March, in partnership with the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, PROS hosts "Native Plant Day" a full day of educational programs, walks, and displays. This annual event is hosted on a rotating basis at different parks geographically throughout the community.

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)

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More than 4,000, which includes swamp milkweed, native and Florida-friendly pollinator plants, and orchids. More than 2,500 sapling trees were also distributed to the community.

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

3400

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

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) agricultural extension office; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG); Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida troop; PROS' Zoo Miami is a founding member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' AZA Safe (Saving Animals from Extension North American Monarch Program.

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?

PROS has engaged with the County's Regulatory and Environmental Resources Divisions' (RER) Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and the Environmentally Endangered Lands Division (EEL) to continue updating the County resilience policies and documents to include the preservation and enhancement of habitat important for Monarch butterflies. PROS also works on sea-level-rise initiatives for its coastal parks.

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.

Efforts to support pollinators are ongoing within Miami-Dade County. Coordinated and community stewardship of our parks, preserves, green, blue, and open spaces fosters awareness and knowledge to action conservation activities. Parks and public green spaces serve as the gateway to nature for people to connect, interact, and develop shared environmental and conservation values. Much of what is included in this report’s action items have already contributed and will continue contributing, to improve the habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about the monarch butterfly population. These recommendations are guided by best practices, public education, and ongoing activities that support pollinators in our community year-round, conducted by Miami-Dade County’s Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS or Parks Department) which includes University of Florida / IFAS, Zoo Miami, Natural Areas Management, Deering Estate, Fruit & Spice Park, Community Forestry and Beautification

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Division, Million Trees Miami's tree planting program, and Environmental, Education and Conservation Outreach (E.E.C.O.) divisions. In addition, RER-DERM provides habitat acquisition, enhancement, and protection for native pollinators including butterflies, through its Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program, Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Section, Natural Resources Division's habitat property tax incentive program, and Adopt-a-Tree program. PROS and RER-DERM, with other agencies, coordinate, co-manage, and steward many programs and sensitive resources to support the implementation of the Monarch Pledge. The target date for specific actions is September 30, 2025 and others are ongoing.

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