Miami-Dade County

Miami, FL

Mayor of 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 2025

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.).

1250

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.)

350

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.

Butterfly and Native Plant Habitat Within County Parks

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

Several County parks and natural preserves are located within low income communities and communities of color. Additionally, workshops are conducted in these communities.

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 communityis to engage community members in actions that the community can do individually and collectively to improve the South Florida environment.

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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 were distributed; Bill Sadowski Park: Monthly site visits with PROS staff / Natural Areas Manager for the park to discuss planting opportunities and ideas for pollinator plants around the nature center and butterfly garden.; Castellow Hammock Park/Preserve: Coordination with UF-IFAS, connect to protect program and local nurseries.

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

AD Barnes Park: the butterfly and native pollinator gardens have been maintained; Castellow Hammock Park / Preserve: focus maintained for all types of pollinators, including Monarchs.

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).

University of Florida / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) staff regularly conduct in-person and virtual education programs to the community on pollinators including education on Monarch butterflies, and providing outreach for pollinator plants for pollinator gardens at parks. Every March, in partnership with the Dade Chapter of the Native Plant Society, PROS hosts Native Plant Day, a full day of educational programs, walks, displays, and plant sales to the public.

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 1,000, which included swamp milkweed; native and Florida-friendly pollinator plants; orchids and 500 native trees were distributed.

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

2500

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

PROS' Zoo Miami is a founding member of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Zoo Miami is a designated botanical garden that also includes native pine rockland habitat. The UF / IFAS Agricultural Extension Office; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida; The UF / 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 and vegetable gardening, plant selection, least-toxic pest control, pesticide and fertilizer use, amongst other important pollinator-friendly best gardening practices.

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 Economic Resources (RER) Resiliency group and DERM work with County agencies and PROS to update the County' s resiliency policies and documents to include the preservation of native pollinator (including Monarch) habitat.

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 other County Departments on updating various documents regarding pollinator species. Target date is September 2026. Pollinator gardens are located in multiple County parks including Zoo Miami, Arch Creek Park, and AD Barnes Park. Zoo Miami 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. Community pollinator gardens are maintained at the following parks: AD Barnes Park, Bill Sadowski Park, Castellow Hammock Park, Crandon Park, and the Deering Estate.

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