City of Coconut Creek

Coconut Creek, FL

Mayor Sandy Welch

Pledge Summary

Coconut Creek, Florida, also known as the "Butterfly Capital of the World", is a friendly city, sandwiched between Miami and Palm Beach, and is known for its thoughtful design and eco-conscious vibe. Coconut Creek boasts a population of around 58,000 residents and a thriving business scene. As a forward-thinking city, Coconut Creek is committed to sustainable growth. The City’s development strategy focuses on creating purposeful spaces through mixed land use, ensuring long-term environmental and economic sustainability. The City's ongoing investments in renewable energy, eco-friendly materials, and energy-efficient infrastructure demonstrates our commitment to a sustainable future. With our lush green spaces, beautiful parks, and dedication to environmental sustainability, Coconut Creek offers an ideal setting for residents, visitors, and businesses alike. Coconut Creek offers an array of enriching cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities, making it a dynamic and family-friendly place to live, work, and visit. The City's thoughtful urban planning preserves its natural beauty while enhancing the quality of life for everyone who calls it home. Coconut Creek is a welcoming, inclusive community with a small-town feel.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species’ need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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 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

- 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).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Sandy Welch	2025	2/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sandy Welch	2024	3/6/2024	Signatories
Mayor Joshua Rydell	2022	4/26/2022	

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.).

400

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.)

50

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

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.

0

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

We invite all of our residents to attend our annual tree giveaway event. We host a MMP booth at this event, where our Mayor and a City Commissioner speak to residents about

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the program and provide literature on what steps the City is taking and we provide a list of steps showing what they can do to help.

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

The City of Coconut Creek is trademarked as the "Butterfly Capital of the World" and is seriously committed to butterfly conservation. Signing on to the Pledge is a natural continuation of our efforts to protect butterflies and educate the public about their ecological importance.

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?

Having the Mayor and City Commissioners speak directly with residents at our Tree Giveaway event has been effective. We give away native milkweed seeds, and encourage residents to plant native milkweed in their yards.

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

Issuing a MMP Proclamation also helps our efforts as it is read a Commission meeting and is posted for all to see.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

October 11, 2025

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025 Mayor Monarch Pledge Day.pdf

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.

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)

At City Hall, but there are others at our parks and community centers.

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

We have had volunteers assist with initial planting, and then city staff or contractors take over for the maintenance.

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.

.08

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?

We participate in the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat program and encourage our residents to create wildlife habitats. In 2005, the city of Coconut Creek was the first community in the State of Florida to be certified a Community Wildlife Habitat.

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

https://www.coconutcreek.net/sustainable-development/urban-design-and-development/landscaping/create-a-habitat

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

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

2025 Outdoor lighting code.pdf

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

City staff and City Commission, including Mayor

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

complete

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.

The lighting code was updated on 7-23-2015 to encourage the use of wildlife-friendly lighting, i.e. bulbs in the visible spectrum (four hundred (400) to seven hundred (700) nanometers).

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

50 percent of plant material required to be native.pdf

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

City staff and City Commission, including Mayor

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

complete

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.

The last revisions to the landscape code were codified in Sept 2023 and the minimum percentage of native plants to be installed on each project is 50%.

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

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

A representative from our Landscape Division, together with a member of Code Compliance, attended 6 HOA meetings during 2025 whereby we encouraged the preservation of trees, the planting of wildlife habitats, eradicating invasive plants, planting native species, and conserving water.

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

At the beginning of the summer, our Landscape Division met with the Public Works Department and discussed mowing practices and maintenance. This information was also shared with our hired maintenance contractor.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

Eradication of invasive exotic plants.pdf

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

several total acres, though the exact figure is unknown at this time

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Public Works has an ongoing maintenance program to eradicate invasive plants from City-owned or managed sites. We work with HOAs and private property owners, mainly through the code compliance process, to have privately-owned natural areas and sites managed.

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.

Landscape Division, Public Works Dept, and city vendors/contractors.

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

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Meetings took place at the beginning of the summer to discuss the maintenance and mowing of all city-owned or maintained properties.

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