City of Wildwood

Wildwood, FL

Mayor Ed Wolf

Pledge Summary

Wildwood, FL, is a rapidly growing municipality with a population of more than 30,000 residents, situated approximately 20 miles south of Ocala and 50 miles northwest of Orlando. As growth and development accelerates, the city is committing to conservation of monarchs and pollinators through a multifaceted, cross-departmental approach that will engage local experts and community members to provide habitat crucial to these species.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly 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.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Ed Wolf	2026	3/23/2026	
Mayor Ed Wolf	2025	3/19/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Ed Wolf	2024	1/17/2024	Signatories
Mayor Ed Wolf	2023	4/26/2023	Signatories

Action Items

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.

.05

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

As the City of Wildwood continues to grow and develop at an extraordinarily high rate, its management and elected officials have recognized the need to preserve existing habitat and create additional habitat for monarchs and other important insect and animal pollinators.

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?

Our new garden was most benefited by a plant donation. As we plan for enhanced monarch and pollinator habitat projects in future years, additional plant donations or discounts would be helpful. Multi-lingual educational materials would help promote projects and information to audiences who speak other languages.

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.).

3700

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.

City owned property

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

The City of Wildwood has a racially and socioeconomically diverse population. Our programming serves all residents, regardless of income, color, or other demographic factors.

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.)

250

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

This was a rebuilding year after our initial garden was destroyed due to extreme weather and prolonged flooding. The initial location chosen was less than ideal, and it took time to find a new location. The garden planted this year was smaller, but has been more successful. The city will plan and budget in 2026 to implement enhanced programming in 2027 and subsequent years.

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:

09/22/25

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

MONARCH AWARENESS MONTH

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Awareness Month 2025.pdf

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.

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

Internal discussion among leadership in the city's executive, public works, development services, and parks and recreation departments remains ongoing as staff continues to seek

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

out additional opportunities to support monarch and other pollinator habitat.

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

Four departments (executive, public works, development services, parks and recreation)

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The city has developed and continues to grow relationships with a local butterfly garden club, native plant society chapter, university extension agents, and other community leaders in the field of conservation and education, learning and exploring collaborations for future programming and events. City of Wildwood staff attended several events organized by UF's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, including two in Gainesville and one here in Sumter County, hosted by UF IFAS Extension. City officials attended the Butterflyfest event hosted by The Villages Butterfly Garden Club and Fred Funk Butterfly Garden in Lady Lake to learn about and support those initiatives. The president of The Villages Butterfly Garden Club gave a presentation on monarch conservation and butterfly gardening at a commission meeting in October, during the city's Monarch Awareness month.

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

Six (City of Wildwood, The Villages Butterfly Garden Club, Fred Funk Butterfly Garden, Florida Native Plant Society, UF/IFAS Extension, UF's McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity,

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.

The city's parks and recreation department has contracted with a local landscape company to emphasize pollinator-friendly selections during quarterly flower bed updates at city facilities. Recent installations have included nectar-producing species attracting an abundance of both butterflies and bees.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

In August 2025, the city encouraged members of the community to participate in the Great Southeast and Florida Pollinator Census, providing educational materials and other resources on insect identification and the valuable roles butterflies and other pollinators play in our ecosystems and everyday lives.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

35

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

The Villages Butterfly Garden Club, Fred Funk Butterfly Garden

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

35

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

After severe weather and prolonged flooding damaged the city's initial demonstration garden, which contained milkweed and an abundance of other nectar producing plants, an alternate site was identified. After additional observation at that site as the season progressed, it was determined to be suboptimal for growing variety of flowering plants and another location was selected and prepared. Thanks to a generous donation by the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, approximately 35 plugs were planted, including Asclepias tuberosa.

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

UF McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

below.

The draft form was submitted as a class project to Florida State University's Certified Public Manager program on 9/5/25. The city's development services staff has been piloting use of the new form to test.

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

The city’s executive, development services, and utility billing departments collaborated on a six-month project to update Wildwood’s tree mitigation process to ensure development that removes existing applicable vegetation accounts for it accurately and replaces with comparable species or otherwise contributes to the city’s tree bank in ways that meaninfully promote conservation of essential species.

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

Marion County government.

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

In progress.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

7

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

Since the city already had signs made for its original demonstration garden, those that applied to the plants available for use in the new garden were installed, and new ones created and installed for the remaining species that did not already have signs. Please see attachment for a mockup of signs created and installed.

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

Pollinator garden sign mock-ups for 2025 installation.pdf

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]

Coreopsis sign.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u38:v1.14.0.49966]