

- WHEREAS,** Florida supports one of the largest mangrove forests in North America and has the largest total acreage of mangroves of any state in the nation, estimated at over 500,000 acres; and
- WHEREAS,** the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks, and the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, manage thousands of acres of mangroves for the protection of Florida’s natural environment; and
- WHEREAS,** mangroves provide vital nursery areas for fish, crustaceans and shellfish as well as animals and birds that depend on the roots and branches of mangroves for shelter and nesting; and
- WHEREAS,** mangroves assist in protecting water quality by filtering runoff and trapping sediments and debris from adjacent uplands; and
- WHEREAS,** Florida’s universities and government agencies conduct environmental research that improves understanding and awareness of mangroves; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Lauderdale complies with all State and Federal regulations that afford protection to the delicate mangrove environment; and
- WHEREAS,** Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA), led by Executive Director Kristen Hoss and Director of Community Outreach Programs Lee Gottlieb, along with student and adult volunteers, will plant 100 Red Mangroves helping restore vital wetland habitat in South Florida at the Bill Keith Preserve in the City of Fort Lauderdale; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA), is declaring **Saturday, December 8, 2012** the second annual “Mangrove Awareness Day” at Bill Keith Preserve; and
- WHEREAS,** citizens of Fort Lauderdale are encouraged to learn more about the three species of mangroves native to Florida (red, white and black) and the benefits they provide to countless species of fish and wildlife and how they protect many miles of Florida’s and Fort Lauderdale’s coastline.

NOW, THEREFORE WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **Saturday, December 8, 2012** as:

MANGROVE AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

DATED this, 4th day of December, 2012.

Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler

