



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#25-0192

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: March 4, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the City's Participation in the Arbor Day Foundation's
Tree City USA Certification and in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's
Monarch Pledge - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission support the City's continued participation in the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA certification and in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge; authorizing the Mayor or their designee to sign and submit documents for these programs, as appropriate.

Background

The City has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, as demonstrated by its proactive policies and programs aimed at enhancing the urban forest. Through the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan)*, the City has established a goal of achieving a 33% urban tree canopy by 2040, recognizing the critical role that trees play in creating a sustainable and resilient community. The *Plan* also has several policies that are intended to protect wildlife habitats.

For 45 years, the City has achieved Tree City USA status by meeting the four standards set by the Arbor Day Foundation:

- Standard 1: A Tree Board or Department;
- Standard 2: A Public Tree Care Ordinance;
- Standard 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita; and
- Standard 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are pledging to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community. Mayors and other heads of local and tribal government are taking action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. The

City has been participating in the Mayor's Monarch Challenge since 2021.

By supporting continued participation in the Tree City USA program and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the City reaffirms its dedication to fostering a healthier, greener, and more resilient urban environment for current and future generations.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a Sustainability and Resilient Community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element
- Goal 3: Showcase the natural beauty and spirit of Fort Lauderdale by highlighting our parks and recreation facilities and planning for resilience to adapt to climate change.
- Conservation Element 3.1: Sustainable Landscape and Tree Canopy. Preserve and enhance the natural environment and beauty of the city, improve infrastructure, and promote better quality of life by creating a safe, healthy, and sustainable landscape. The City shall continue to enhance its tree canopy with a goal of 33% Citywide canopy coverage by 2040.
- Conservation Element 3.1.6: Plant and tree selection should increase the species diversity of the urban forest and include the needs of wildlife and plants, for birds, butterflies, and native pollinators.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Exhibit 2 – Tree City USA Application Form

Exhibit 3 – Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Prepared by: Laura Tooley, Urban Forester, Public Works
Glen Hadwen, Climate and Resiliency Program Manager, Public Works
Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Resiliency Officer, Public Works

Department Directors: Talal Abi-Karam, P.E., Interim Director, Public Works