

Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida

A Proclamation

Recognizing July 26 as International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove
Ecosystems in Martin County, Florida

- Whereas, mangroves are keystone species and an iconic feature of Florida’s coastal ecosystem that provide critical habitat for native Florida wildlife, including at least 220 species of fish, 181 species of birds, 24 species of reptiles and amphibians and 18 mammal species; and
- Whereas, throughout Florida, 75% of sport and commercial fish species rely on mangroves, with the recreational and commercial fishing industries representing a massive economic benefit to the state's economy and the Indian River Lagoon region; and
- Whereas, mangroves provide more than \$50 billion in coastal protection services by acting as natural barriers during extreme weather events, safeguarding private and public lands; and
- Whereas, root systems of mangroves can trap sediments and pollutants, absorb excess nutrients and filter heavy metals and wastewater before they make their way into the Indian River Lagoon; and
- Whereas, Florida’s mangrove population has declined to a fraction of its historic levels because of deforestation, development pressures, and severe weather impacts; and
- Whereas, communicating the importance of mangroves and their valuable contribution to Florida’s way of life can encourage public awareness of an iconic species.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that July 26, 2026 is International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems. The Board urges the community to help contribute to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems by donating propagules to mangrove nurseries, undertaking safe and legal mangrove trimming practices, and even installing mangroves along their shorelines, and thus further compounding the ecosystem services and economic benefits to the state of Florida.

Presented this Twenty-eighth Day of July 2026

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

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