

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2024

RECOGNIZING the month of April 2024 as Native Plant Month to spread awareness of the vital role of native plants in maintaining the ecological balance of our community.

WHEREAS, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 17,000 native plant species in the United States, which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion, and can help restore damaged ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century, and Hamilton County is currently home to five threatened and three endangered native plant species; and

WHEREAS, habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and

WHEREAS, invasive species have a detrimental economic impact in the United States, to the tune of \$138 billion each year according to The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati boasts a broad and beautiful array of native plants that support our ecosystems and our pollinators, including Milkweed, Goldenrod, Violet, Pawpaw, False Indigo, Black-eyed Susan, Spicebush, Asters, Solidago, Joe-Pye Weed, Geranium, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Park Board's Division of Natural Resources manages over 3,000 acres of natural areas with an emphasis on conservation, environmental restoration, and protecting our natural heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS, these conservation and environmental restoration efforts are directly supported through thousands of hours of volunteerism by our local community, as well as partnerships with organizations such as the Civic Garden Center, the University of Cincinnati, the Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, and Groundwork Ohio River Valley, among many others; and

WHEREAS, thanks in part to the leadership of Former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft, since 2019 the State of Ohio has designated April as Ohio Native Plant Month, and since 2021 the United States Congress has designated April as National Native Plant Month; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council recognize the month of April 2024 as Cincinnati Native Plant Month and encourage the planting of native plants as a way all citizens can protect and support our Cincinnati ecosystems.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council encourage all citizens to refrain from planting invasive species due to the harm they cause to native species and the multitude of insects, birds, and other wildlife that rely on native species in our communities.

Section 3. That copies of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka Owens