

Proclamation

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, February 26 - March 3, 2024 is National Invasive Species Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the spread of invasive species decreases biodiversity, threatens the survival of native plants and animals, and interferes with ecosystem functions; and

WHEREAS, native plant species:

- perform ecosystem functions such as flood mitigation, soil nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration;
- increase biodiversity and support food webs;
- possess adaptations to local conditions, providing savings on maintenance costs by requiring less water, pesticides, and fertilizers;
- decrease the threat of wildfire by supporting normal levels of fuel loading; and
- represent elements of a region's natural and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the costs of invasive species control and damage remediation reach \$138 billion yearly in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Town adopted its first ordinance against invasive species in 1999 and, since that date, has prohibited the use of invasive species as a method of complying with Land Use Ordinance provisions for shading and screening, and has disallowed the inclusion of invasive species in any plans submitted in support of a land use permit application; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2017, the Town Council accepted the Community Climate Action Plan, which, in part, encourages the protection and enhancement of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Town holds volunteer events to remove invasive species from municipal parks and has updated the Town Code to allow native plantings through managed natural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, The Town has encouraged the use of native species through educational film screenings, outreach events, and pollinator plant and milkweed seed giveaways through the Bee City USA and Mayors' Monarch Pledge initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 26 - March 3, 2024, to be Invasive Species Awareness Week in Carrboro. I encourage residents to join in an upcoming campaign to identify and remove invasive species throughout Carrboro.

This the 27th day of February 2024.


Barbara M. Foushee

