



PROCLAMATION

Native Plant Month

April 2024

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

WHEREAS, native plants are vital for maintaining and restoring the healthy ecosystem needed to sustain our environment, including seed dispersal; pollination of crops and natural vegetation; prevention of flooding, drought, and erosion; regulation of disease-carrying organisms; and moderation of weather extremes; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to more than 3,900 native plant species, including trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers, making it one of the most diverse states for native plants in the Southeast; and

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

WHEREAS, 969 of the native plant species in North Carolina have been designated as significantly rare and/or in decline and may be in danger of extinction; and

WHEREAS, 94 of those 969 imperiled plants have been found in Orange County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as **Native Plant Month** to recognize the many benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the Town of Hillsborough.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 25th day of March in the year 2024.



Mark Bell

Mark Bell, Mayor
Town of Hillsborough