



RESOLUTION BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING INCREASED USE OF NATIVE PLANTS ON WAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners have a long standing and proactive position toward the protection of natural resources to protect and preserve the health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of Wake County; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Piedmont region native plants, provide unique and environmental values to the region and the use of Native Plants helps preserve our natural heritage.; and

WHEREAS, the use of Native Plants helps restore the ecological balance that has been lost through development; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Wake County Board of Commissioners adopted revisions to the Wake County UDO establishing guidelines for the use of native plants in landscape buffers and providing information on invasive plant species; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 Wake County became a founding and committed partner of WakeNature in an effort to organize and provide resources to identify ecologically valuable, publicly owned open spaces within Wake County, NC, and to build capacity for appropriate management and long-term stewardship of those areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Wake County Design Guidelines and Standards were established as a guidance document on materials, including landscaping for all Wake County Government CIP projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Wake County Open Space, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (OSAPAC) recommended strongly supporting the use of native species in open space and public access project areas except for gardens for historic and educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Board of Commissioners subcommittee on Growth Land Use and Environment received a presentation on use of Native Plants and recommended to the full Board of Commissioners revisions to the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance and the Wake County Design Guidelines and Standards, as well as establishing a pilot project that will utilize native plants to a greater extent; and

WHEREAS, Wake County contends with invasive plants, which compete with native species, degrade soil, facilitate erosion, alter the regions natural landscapes and should be prohibited in all landscape plans; and

WHEREAS, Native Plants, which are plants and trees that are localized and well adapted to the soils, topography, hydrology and climate of the region, are of substantial aesthetic and ecological benefit to the County; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds, insects, butterflies, mammals, reptiles and other native species are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they coevolved, and use such plants for food, cover and rearing their young; and

WHEREAS, the use of appropriate Native Plants in local landscaping, can help achieve water conservation, preserve and encourage habitat and reduce the maintenance costs for landscaping;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, in an effort to protect our natural resources Wake County will review and revise the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance and the Wake County Design Guidelines and Standards ensuring that Wake County Government projects utilize Native Plants to the greatest extent possible; and that the County Commission does hereby authorize the County Manager to support efforts toward the increased use of native plants on Wake County Government projects.

ADOPTED this 15th day of October 2018.

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners