

RESOLUTION # 2012- 032

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of native wildflowers in Polk County can be enjoyed by everyone; can attract guests, and benefit commerce, environmental health, and public well-being; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of native wildflowers is an occasion for all County and community leaders to unite for the benefit of everyone; and

WHEREAS, many naturally beautiful species of native wildflowers, including Coreopsis, the state wildflower, as depicted upon the State Wildflower license tag, are already prominently displayed along Polk County's state and county roadways; and

WHEREAS, increasing the visibility of native wildflowers in Polk County is consistent with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan, and goals of many individuals, businesses, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, the presence of native wildflowers is essential to the fitness of native pollinator species necessary for productive and profitable farms and forests; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon named this beautiful place La Florida, Land of Flowers, because of the wealth of native wildflowers; and

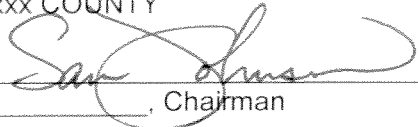
WHEREAS, in the year 2013, native wildflowers will be a prominent icon of Florida's and Polk County's quincentennial celebration of Spain in Florida; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and attainable to experience the beauty of many more native wildflowers by reducing the frequency and extent of roadside mowing; and

WHEREAS, State Road \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Highway; and County Road \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Road are ideal candidates to establish pilot project corridors for management of native wildflowers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County, Florida, do hereby commit and encourage others to commit to the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on state and county roadways, and do hereby instruct County staff to partner with the Florida Department of Transportation and adjoining property owners to plan and implement roadside management practices that will increase the visibility and enjoyment of Florida native wildflowers.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
xxx COUNTY

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman 4-17-12

Q.64