



# Proclamation



## Invasive Species Awareness Week

WHEREAS, February 28 through March 4, 2022, is National Invasive Species Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the spread of invasive species decreases biodiversity, threatens the survival of native plants and animals, including 400 of the 1300 species listed in the Endangered Species Act, through habitat loss, predation, and resource competition; and interferes with ecosystem functions by changing natural processes such as fire, nutrient flow, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, native plant species:

- perform 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 \$120 billion yearly in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Town adopted its first ordinance against invasive species in 1999 and, since that time, 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 recently updated the Town Code to allow native plantings through managed natural landscapes;

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 initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 28 through March 4, 2022, to be Invasive Species Awareness Week in Carrboro. I also encourage residents to join upcoming efforts to support native species and remove invasive species during Orange County Creek Week, March 12 to 19.

This the 22nd day of February 2022.



Damon Seils, Mayor