



Wildflower Resolution Advocacy Kit



Introduction

Adopting a wildflower resolution in your city or county is an important step in conserving Florida's roadside wildflowers. Resolutions help protect habitat for pollinators, reduce mowing costs, improve water quality, support Florida agriculture and add beauty to our communities.

This kit will walk you through the process and provide ready-to-use tools to help you take action.

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Before you begin

This advocacy kit is designed to support residents, community groups and organizations interested in encouraging their city or county to adopt a wildflower resolution. While the overall process is straightforward, timelines and procedures can vary by community.

Before starting, we recommend that you:

- Reach out to the Florida Wildflower Foundation Roadsides Program Coordinator for guidance and support
- Identify the appropriate governing body (city council or county commission)
- Be prepared to work collaboratively with elected officials, staff and community partners

Who this kit is for

This kit can be used by individual residents, informal groups or organized partners working together to advance roadside wildflower conservation at the local level.



What a wildflower resolution does

A wildflower resolution expresses a city or county's support for conserving native roadside wildflowers and pollinator habitat. It can help guide local decision-making, encourage coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and can serve as a first step toward future designation of city or county roads as wildflower habitat.

What a wildflower resolution does *not* do

A resolution does not change state law, override FDOT policies or automatically alter mowing schedules. Instead, it serves as an important policy statement that can inform future decisions, partnerships and actions.

Timeline expectations

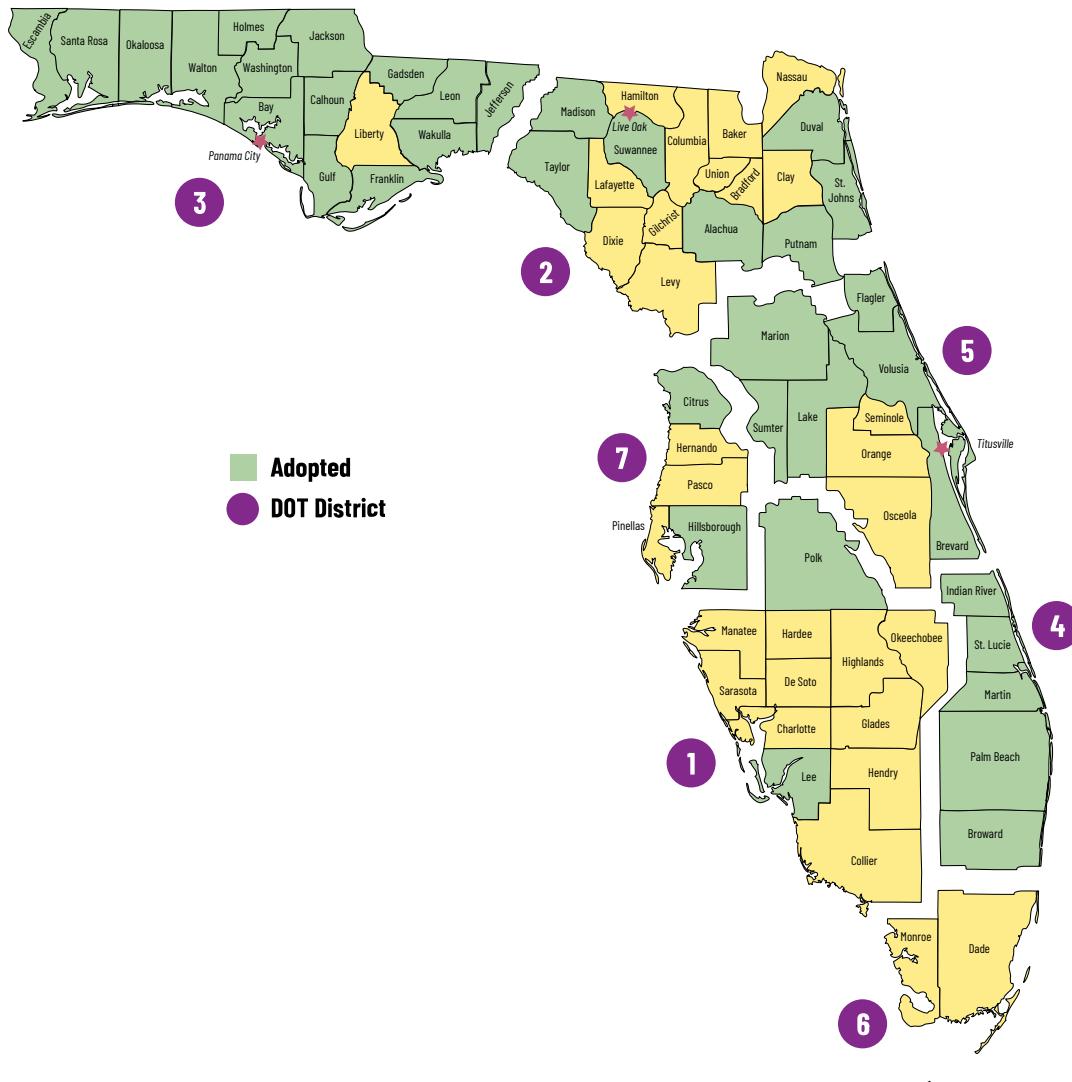
The process of adopting a resolution may take several weeks to several months, depending on local procedures, meeting schedules and the level of community support. Flexibility and persistence are key — and many successful resolutions began with just one or two committed residents.



Advocacy steps

Step 1. Gather Information and draft your resolution.

- Find your city or county on the map and identify whether they have already adopted a resolution.
- Counties shown in green on the district map have already adopted wildflower resolutions. Cities with resolutions are shown with pink stars. If your city or county has adopted a resolution, visit www.FlaWildflowers.org/wildflower-resolutions/ to view the resolution and learn how it was passed.
- If your county or city has a wildflower resolution in place but it is outdated, you can follow these same steps and use these tools to update and re-pass a resolution.
- Reach out to the Florida Wildflower Foundation Roadsides Program Coordinator to learn about any past or current efforts in your community.
- Review successful resolutions from other cities and counties to help draft one or use the model resolution included in the appendix as a guide.



Step 2. Build local support.

Strong local support increases the likelihood of a resolution being adopted.

- Team up with residents and organizations that have ties to county commissioners or city council members who support environmental initiatives.
- Organize a group effort by inviting help from Florida Wildflower Foundation members, local Florida Native Plant Society chapters, Audubon and Sierra Club chapters, garden clubs, civic organizations and homeowners associations.
- Ask supporters to write letters of support or sign on to the sample petition included in the appendix.

Step 3. Pass the resolution.

A wildflower resolution must be formally introduced by a county commissioner or city council member. To move the resolution forward:

- Identify commissioners or council members who are likely to support the resolution.
- Meet with a commissioner or council member to request sponsorship of the resolution.
- Use the sample email and phone script [WEB linked] [PDF] included in the appendix to request the meeting.
- Ask the sponsoring official for guidance on the best way to proceed, including final wording of the resolution, scheduling a presentation and securing a vote.
- Call or visit other members who may need additional information or encouragement before the vote.
- Ask supporters who pledged their help to attend the meeting on the day of the vote; if needed, have a few key supporters prepared to provide brief public testimony.

Step 4. Follow up and support implementation.

After the resolution is adopted:

- Send thank you emails or letters to elected officials, staff and community partners who supported the effort. A sample thank-you letter is included in the appendix and can be adapted for your community and recipients.
- Confirm that the adopted resolution has been entered into the official city or county record.
- Request that the resolution be shared with relevant county departments (e.g., public works, transportation or natural resources).
- Share news of the adopted resolution with local media, partners, organizations and residents.
- Stay engaged by monitoring roadside management practices and maintaining relationships with county staff and elected officials.

Implementation may be gradual and often begins with improved coordination rather than immediate changes to mowing schedules.



Appendix: Advocacy tools and templates

A. Model resolution

RESOLUTION # _____

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of native wildflowers in _____ 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 _____ County's state and county roadways; and

WHEREAS, increasing the visibility of native wildflowers in _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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

_____ COUNTY

B. Sample email to commissioner or council member

Subject: Support for a Wildflower Resolution in [County/City]

Dear Commissioner [Last name]

I am a resident of [County/City] and I care deeply about conserving Florida's natural heritage and the character of our local landscapes. I am writing to ask for your support in adopting a Wildflower Resolution for [County/City].

Native roadside wildflowers provide critical habitat for pollinators, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance the beauty of our community. Many cities and counties across Florida have already adopted similar resolutions, and I believe [County/City] would benefit greatly from joining this growing effort.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or a member of your staff to share more information and discuss how we might move this forward together. Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your contact information]

C. Sample phone script

Hello. My name is [your name], and I'm a resident of [County/City].

I'm calling to ask for Commissioner [Last Name]'s support for a wildflower resolution in [County/City]. Native roadside wildflowers provide important habitat for pollinators, can reduce long-term mowing costs, and help make our community more attractive.

Many counties and cities across Florida have already adopted similar resolutions, and I would love to see [County/City] take this step as well.

Could you please let me know if the Commissioner is willing to meet or speak further about this further? Thank you very much for your time.

D. Sample petition for organizations

Petition to Support a Wildflower Resolution in [County/City]

We, the undersigned organization(s), respectfully support the adoption of a wildflower resolution in [County/City].

Native roadside wildflowers provide numerous public benefits, including:

- Habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife
- Reduced roadside maintenance costs through less frequent mowing
- Improved water quality and soil stabilization
- Enhanced community beauty and local pride
- Support for Florida agriculture and natural ecosystems

By adopting a wildflower resolution, [County/City] can join other communities across Florida in conserving our natural heritage while promoting a healthier, more resilient environment.

We urge the [County/City] Commission to adopt a Wildflower Resolution at the earliest opportunity.

Signed,

[Organization Name]

[Contact Person]

[Date]

E. Sample thank-you email/letter

Subject: Thank you for your support of the Wildflower Resolution

Dear Commissioner [Last Name],

Thank you for your support of the wildflower resolution adopted by [County/City]. We truly appreciate your leadership and commitment to conserving Florida's native roadside wildflowers and pollinator habitat.

This resolution is an important step toward protecting roadside ecosystems while also supporting cost-effective management practices and enhancing the natural beauty of our community. We are grateful for the time and consideration you gave to this effort.

We welcome guidance on how the resolution will be shared with relevant [county/city] departments and how it may be referenced to support roadside management practices moving forward. We look forward to staying engaged and supporting the [county/city] in any way that is helpful.

Thank you again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your contact information]