

City of Sanibel

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** In 2015, the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) established the month of October as Florida Native Plant Month. While many states have stunning displays of spring flowers, Florida's climate provides opportunities for the public to also appreciate the beauty of native plants in the fall; and
- WHEREAS:** Native plants serve as the foundation for wildlife habitat and improve biodiversity by providing critical resources for pollinators, and other species of native and migratory wildlife; and
- WHEREAS:** Native plants are specifically adapted to Florida's rainfall patterns and soil conditions, and are more resistant to pests and diseases reducing the need for irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides, and thus promoting water conservation and water quality protection; and
- WHEREAS:** Native plants have been shown to effectively combat erosional forces and strengthen coastal resiliency; and
- WHEREAS:** More than 3,000 species of native plants inhabit Florida, at least 256 of which are "endemic" and do not occur anywhere else in the world; and
- WHEREAS:** Sanibel was recognized by Tree City USA for spending at least \$2 per capita on its community forestry program and has been a participating member for 34 years; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2022, Sanibel was recognized by the Florida Native Plant Society for its utilization of native groundcovers, shrubs and trees in the City Hall landscaping design, as well as its commitment to educating the public about the importance of native plants; and
- WHEREAS:** Sanibel instilled this commitment to Florida's native plants through the creation and adoption of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which preserves the unique and natural characteristics of the Island through environmentally responsible development and the prohibition of invasive exotic plant species; and
- WHEREAS:** Sanibel residents can show appreciation for Florida's native plants by incorporating them into all landscaping projects and support initiatives that preserve, conserve, and restore native plants and plant communities in our barrier island sanctuary.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Lee County Florida, on behalf of the citizens of Sanibel, do hereby declare October 2023, as Florida Native Plant Month on Sanibel Island, and urge all citizens to celebrate the ecological, cultural, and economical benefits of native groundcovers, shrubs, and trees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Sanibel to be affixed hereto.

This 3rd day of October 2023


Richard Johnson, Mayor


Mike Miller, Vice Mayor


Dr. Scott Crater, Councilmember


John Henshaw, Councilmember


Holly D. Smith, Councilmember