

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, plants, flowers and shrubbery provide the world with beauty, resources, and habitats for birds, animals and insects; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida's landscape has diverse regions of scrub forests, swampy areas, and lake and beach fronts, and native plants that include wildflowers, groundcover, ferns, and palms thrive in its unique climate and environment; and

WHEREAS, the **Florida Native Plant Society** (FNPS) was established in 1980 in Winter Park, Florida by a group of dedicated scientist, educators and conservationist concerned about the loss of Florida's native plants, and the introduction of non-native species overtaking natural areas, and the organization currently has a membership of 3,900 in 38 chapters statewide with the Suncoast Chapter based in Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida, and it supports conservation land acquisition and public policies that protect native flora, provides education and research on native plant species, manages land that enhances habitat suitability for native plants, and encourages local landscaping practices and policies that preserve native plant heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Native Plant Society has established **Florida Native Plant Month** to help to bring awareness about the importance of it mission and in preserving the state's native plants, especially those that are rare; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa has a wealth of beautiful natural areas that showcase Florida's native flora and native plant communities, and locally, the Florida Native Plant Society Suncoast Chapter was founded in 1983, one of the state's oldest, and the dedicated members help to educate citizens and work to preserve native plants in the Tampa Bay area, and during the month of October will bring awareness to the community with information and displays including during the annual University of South Florida Botanical Gardens Plant Sale on October 14-15, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim October 2017 as

"FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to learn more about the native plants in our community and join me in thanking the Florida Native Plant Society for making our state a more beautiful place to live and for preserving our native plant heritage.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of September, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor