

Resolution in Support of Greater Use of Native Plants

**Approved and Adopted
by the
Wachiska Audubon Society Board of Directors
in an E-Vote 21 Sept'20**

Whereas, prairies, woodlands, saline wetlands and other native plant communities are essential to the ecological health of Nebraska and give the land its great beauty and unique character, and

Whereas, Nebraska is rich in native wildflowers, grasses, trees and other native plants with beauty and hardiness that commends their use for landscaping homes, businesses and community green space; and

Whereas, the native plants of Nebraska hold considerable historical and cultural significance; and

Whereas, the planting of native plants aids in the conservation of wildlife and the biodiversity necessary for a healthy and thriving ecosystem; and

Whereas, birds, pollinators including butterflies, bees, and other insects, and other wildlife rely on native plants they co-evolved with for habitat and food, to aid in overwintering and migration, and in return help spread seeds and pollen; and

Whereas native plants form deep root systems that allow the soil to sequester large amounts of carbon; and

Whereas, the same deep root systems of native plants increase soil stability, filtration, and absorption, thereby reducing the destructive effects of stormwater and nutrient runoff, protecting the soil and vegetation from rising water tables, and improving community water quality;

Whereas, native plants require significantly less water, chemicals, mechanical equipment, maintenance and labor than turf grass and non-native plants, thereby reducing household and local government costs, time, and greenhouse gas on, and

Whereas, the mission of the Wachiska Audubon Society is to bring people together to preserve and restore tallgrass prairies and other natural ecosystems and advocate for sustainability of the natural community of which we are all a part;

It is resolved that the Wachiska Audubon Society, in the pursuit of conservation and environmental health,

--Supports increasing the use of native plants by Society members; and

--Supports the use of the Society's own land, where possible, to showcase native plants; and

--Supports efforts to spread awareness of the importance of tall grass prairies and the positive impact of native plants on soil and climate health, to local and state businesses, civic leaders and government officials; and

Supports habitat conservation and creation in home landscaping and community initiatives; and

Supports coordinated efforts in Wachiska's 17 county area for the increased use of native plants and an enhanced attention to natural resource management; and

Resolves to work for a sustainable future for generations that must live in the world we leave them.