



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Marion County supports resolution to conserve roadside wildflowers**

**July 16, 2010** – In a unanimous vote, Marion County Commissioners passed a resolution last week supporting the use and preservation of Florida’s native wildflowers along Marion County roads, in parks and at managed municipal areas.

The resolution raises awareness of native wildflowers’ environmental, historical and cultural significance. It also identifies roads and locations within Marion County as ideal candidates for management protocols that promote naturally occurring wildflowers while saving money and resources through reduced mowing.

County staff plans to start planting Florida wildflowers – including phlox, Black-eyed Susans and Tickseed, our state wildflower – this fall.

“Using wildflowers reduces the areas that require frequent mowing,” said Jim Couillard, Marion County’s Landscape Architect. “Blooming wildflowers will also enhance the appearance of county-owned areas and provide vital food sources for pollinator species, such as bees and butterflies, which are important to the health of our farms and forests.”

“It’s clear officials in Marion County understand that bountiful native flowers hold the potential for enormous economic benefits through increased ecotourism,” said Foundation board chair Jeff Caster. “They also recognize that wildflowers play a large role in the culture and heritage of *La Florida*.”

Marion joins Lake, Volusia, Leon, Wakulla and Gadsden counties in supporting the resolution.

Those interested in proposing a wildflower resolution in their respective counties should contact FWF Executive Director Lisa Roberts at 407-353-6164 or [flawildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:flawildflowers@gmail.com). To learn more about the Foundation and its work, visit [www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org](http://www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org).

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