

Not quite finished! Monitor your areas!

- i. Set up a process to monitor your areas.
- ii. Recruit a team to help with this process.
- iii. Do plant surveys.
- iv. Publicize your areas with photos, new articles, brochures, maps.
- v. Connect with areas in adjoining counties.
- vi. Keep it clean of debris and check on the health and maintenance of the area regularly.

Source of information for this brochure:

Our thanks to the Florida Wildflower Foundation for use of their **Guide to Establishing a Wildflower Area** in preparing this brochure. www.flawildflowers.org

Other sources of information on this topic:

Georgia rare species and natural community data: www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern

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Sarracenia minor Hooded Pitcher Plant

Dr. Bobby Hattaway at www.discoverlife.org



Viburnum nudum Possumhaw Viburnum

Dr. Bobby Hattaway at www.discoverlife.org

Conserving Native Wildflowers and Plant Communities in Georgia

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Guide to Identifying and Establishing Wildflower/Native Plant Areas In Your County/Community



Passiflora incarnata Passion Flower

Amy Heidt

Conserving Native Wildflowers and Plant Communities in Georgia

What is a wildflower management area?

A wildflower management area is any roadside or land area that supports (or has the potential to support) significant native wildflower populations where interested citizens initiate a partnership with local city/county governments and/or landowners to manage the area for the conservation of existing wildflower populations and/or planting wildflowers for conservation and management.

Why Establish Wildflower/ Native Plants Areas?

1. The abundant seasonal color and beauty of native plants/habitats help establish Georgia as an eco-tourism destination. Since tourism is a large industry in our state, it can help your area to attract the businesses and dollars that come with increased tourism.



Iris verna Dwarf Iris
Amy Heidt

2. Wildflower and native plants areas help support crop pollinators when crops are not in the fields. This has a major impact on our on our farming communities.

3. Ensure Sustainability of Georgia's natural environment for future generations by:
 - a. Preservation of critical lands, waters, and habitats.
 - b. Maintaining flourishing plant and wildlife populations with well-connected habitats.
 - c. Conservation of water, air, and other natural resources for future generations.
 - d. Improvements in air and water quality.
4. Community and transportation planning need to be integrated with land use, water and natural resource planning to support statewide goals for protecting lands, waters, and critical habitats.
5. Plan and develop community facilities and transportation systems in a manner which protects the environment and where feasible, restores some function and character of the natural environment and improves environmental quality.

Getting Started:

Begin by organizing a group of interested citizens.

Existing local organizations are the best way to begin: Local Native Plant Society Chapters, Local Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Butterfly Groups, and any other conservation minded groups or businesses will be helpful to your cause.

How might you find such areas?

- i. Proximity to natural habitats, scientific data and anecdotal evidence can assist in identifying and justifying appropriate locations for preservation.
- ii. Roadsides and property adjacent to local, state, federal, and private conservation land or parks (Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory).
- iii. Where threatened or endangered species are found (GNHI).
- iv. From observations of where wildflower blooms are abundant.



Pteridium aquilinum Bracken Fern Amy Heidt

Documenting the Sites

- i. Obtain/make maps of the area. Due to the seasonal nature of many native plants and wildflowers, many species are not always visible. Care should be taken when determining the size and shape of a proposed area.
- ii. Include detailed GPS coordinates and detailed descriptions of the area(s).
- iii. Include photos of the areas while plants are visible and in full bloom.
- iv. Descriptions from local or state botanists will help with this part of the process.

Create a resolution to cover the chosen area(s).

- i. Taylor it to your county and local interests.
- ii. Include photos and specific location(s) of wildflower/native plant area(s) you are proposing.
- iii. Explain the benefits: good for tourism, agriculture, environment; little or no known opposition; compatible with forest, wetland and resource management; complimentary to the rural nature and beauty of _____ county.

Find a Commissioner

A county or municipality commissioner who is sympathetic to your cause and present your ideas to him/her.

Assistance from Public Works

With the help of the community commissioner ask for assistance from the local public works department. The group, commissioner and public works partners need to:

- i. Agree on the proposed area(s).
- ii. Modify the resolution with the help of the commissioner and public works personnel.
- iii. Get it on the local commission's agenda to be presented and passed.

Present specific natural area requests to DOT, DNR or other concerned agencies who have a voice in approval of the designated sight. Include:

- i. Road numbers and names.
- ii. Specific beginning and ending points (Description and GPS coordinates).
- iii. Mowing widths and frequencies (times).
- iv. Always include good photos of your area.
- v. Include your Resolution.



Lupinus perennis Lupine Amy Heidt