

Government of
THE TOWN OF
HIGHLANDS



Mayoral Proclamation

Proclaiming Highlands and the Surrounding Plateau as a Refuge and Repository for Unique Mountain Plant Species

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands, North Carolina, is geographically situated on a plateau in the Blue Ridge Mountains and is internationally renowned for its natural beauty, vast diversity of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands recognizes its dependence upon this unique biodiversity for its cultural, economic and social well-being, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands recommends and encourages the use of native plants for landscaping public sites such as Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park, Martin Lipscomb Center for the Performing Arts, Hudson Library, Peggy Crosby Center, Highlands Town Hall, Highlands Historical Society, and along the Greenway Trail, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Highlands recommends and encourages private and commercial property owners to landscape with native plants, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Highlands supports and is a member of the Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plants Management with the Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway, and the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, and

WHEREAS, Highlands Biological Station has for nearly 90 years fostered research and education focused on the rich natural heritage of the Highlands Plateau and environs, and is the location of the Botanical Garden that serves as a repository for more than 500 identified and labeled native plants, and

WHEREAS, Highlands, NC is the location of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the oldest land trust in North Carolina, and has been continuously dedicated to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and the integrity of land resources of the area for more than 100 years, and


WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands is a designated Bird Sanctuary Sec. 9-6 Town Code and identified an Important Bird Area by Audubon Society and Bird Life International which protects bird habitat and encourages and attracts bird tourism, and

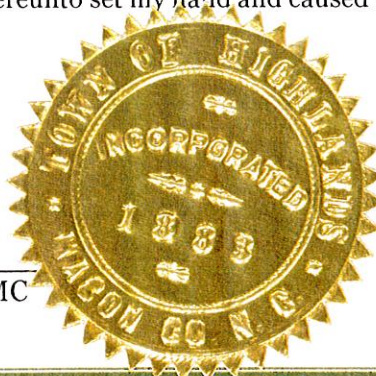
WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands supports the Highlands Plateau Greenway which provides opportunities for viewing the scenic vistas, protects and conserves native flowers, shrubs and trees, and

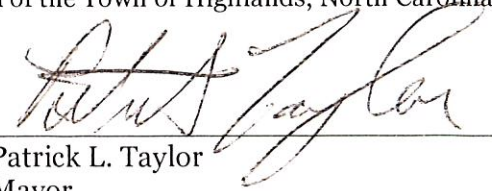
WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands supports the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau, the conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club, that promotes responsible land stewardship and the preservation of native plant species through education and community service, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick L. Taylor, Mayor of the Town of Highlands, hereby proclaims that the Town of Highlands and the surrounding plateau is a refuge and repository for unique mountain plant species and recognizes the Coalition for Non-native Invasive Plants Management as an organization dedicated to preserving the native plants of this region. Citizens are urged to use and cultivate indigenous, native plants and eliminate not-native, invasive species that may encroach their property.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Highlands, North Carolina to be affixed this 19th day of May, 2016.


Rebecca R. Shuler, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk




Patrick L. Taylor
Mayor