

#000847
01/22/01

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Paula M. DeLaney

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, non-native invasive plant species pose a serious threat to Florida's Natural Communities resulting in more natural habitat lost to invasive plant species than to development each year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville Recreation and Parks Department has worked cooperatively with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, the Florida Native Plant Society and Gainesville Ecosystems At Risk (GEAR) volunteers, to increase awareness of non-native invasive plant issues; and

WHEREAS, the First Annual Great Air Potato Roundup on February 5, 2000, brought together an unprecedented 675 volunteers who collected over six tons of air potatoes from the City's Nature Parks and adjacent creek systems; and

WHEREAS, the Second Annual Great Air Potato Roundup will be held at Westside Park on February 3, 2001, to encourage volunteer participation in the continuing stewardship of the City's natural areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paula M. DeLaney, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim the weeks of January 23 through February 3, 2001 as

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT AWARENESS WEEKS

in the City of Gainesville and invite and encourage all our citizens and businesses to actively participate in removing non-native species and planting of native species for the protection of our natural areas.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this tenth day of January, A.D., 2001.



Paula M. DeLaney
Paula M. DeLaney
Mayor