

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is renowned for the beauty and  
2 diversity of its many public gardens and parks, and for the  
3 dedication of Texans in preserving and sustaining these oases of  
4 greenery; and

5           WHEREAS, While outstanding gardens can be found in many  
6 communities throughout the state, the city of Nacogdoches is  
7 deserving of particular recognition for the number and variety of  
8 its green and flowering public spaces; and

9           WHEREAS, Nacogdoches is located on the site of a village once  
10 occupied by the Nacogdoche Indians, a group of the Caddo people,  
11 whose culture was based on farming and gardening; a Spanish mission  
12 was established there in 1716 and continued in existence for the  
13 better part of six and a half decades; the town has been a civil  
14 settlement since 1779, and its situation at the crossroads of two  
15 Spanish colonial highways, El Camino Real and El Calle del Norte,  
16 made it an early center of multicultural exchange; as early as 1853,  
17 the city's gardens were noted in the diary of a famous visitor,  
18 Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect who designed New  
19 York's Central Park; and

20           WHEREAS, Today, Nacogdoches helps to preserve the state's  
21 horticultural heritage through re-creations of traditional gardens  
22 at the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens, the Sterne-Hoya  
23 House Museum and Library, Millard's Crossing Historic Village, the  
24 Old University Building, and the Spanish Religious Plaza; and

1           WHEREAS, The city's splendid green spaces also include  
2 Eugenia Sterne Park, Margil Park, along the Lanana Creek Trail, the  
3 Zion Hill Baptist Church and Oak Grove Cemeteries, and the Pocket  
4 Park and the Plaza Principal in the historic downtown; the Liberty  
5 Memorial Garden, along Banita Creek, commemorates with dignity and  
6 grace the lives lost during the tragic events of 9/11; and

7           WHEREAS, Nacogdoches is home to Stephen F. Austin State  
8 University, which is landscaped with overstory and ornamental trees  
9 to maintain the Pineywoods ecosystem and natural beauty of the  
10 campus; the university's 128 acres of gardens include the SFA Mast  
11 Arboretum, the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, the Gayla Mize  
12 Garden, the Jim and Beth Kingham Children's Garden, the Sustainable  
13 Community Education Garden, and the Crape Myrtle Garden, which  
14 together feature the largest botanical collection in Texas of bald  
15 cypress, boxwood, camellias, gardenias, hollies, hydrangeas,  
16 magnolias, and maples; each year, the SFA Gardens hosts programs  
17 that educate 17,000 people in sustainable gardening and the  
18 preservation of native plants, while the Nacogdoches Independent  
19 School District supports initiatives that encourage its students to  
20 grow and study gardens on their school grounds; and

21           WHEREAS, Home of the annual 22-mile Nacogdoches Azalea Trail  
22 each March, the community was named the first Azalea City of America  
23 by the Azalea Society of America in 2004 and was recertified in  
24 2012; the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden on the SFA campus is the  
25 largest such garden in the state, with more than 520 species and  
26 cultivars on display; the Master Gardeners Club Demonstration  
27 Garden, on the former site of Aqua Vitae Park, was developed by the

1 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on behalf of the city and  
2 Nacogdoches County; and

3 WHEREAS, The thoughtful cultivation of the splendor of nature  
4 is one of the most sublime expressions of the human spirit, and the  
5 skill and devotion with which the city of Nacogdoches has for many  
6 years showcased its lovely trees and flowering plants is indeed  
7 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
9 hereby designate Nacogdoches as the official Garden Capital of  
10 Texas.

Clardy		Ashby
Bell	Bonnen of Galveston	
Button		Canales
Capriglione		Collier
Cortez		Frank
M. Gonzalez of El Paso	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	
Guerra		Kacal
King of Hemphill		Krause
Lavender		Leach
Longoria	Miller of Fort Bend	
Nevarez		Paddie
Perez		Raney
Ratliff		Rose
Sanford		Schaefer
Sheffield of Coryell		Simmons
Simpson		Springer
Stephenson		Stickland
Thompson of Brazoria		Toth
Villalba		Wu

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 24 was adopted by the House on April 3, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 24 was adopted by the Senate on April 18, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor