

By: Clardy

H.C.R. No. 24

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.