

By: Harris of Anderson

H.C.R. No. 105

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Beloved for its profusion of blossoms, the dogwood
2 tree provides one of the most spectacular highlights of springtime
3 in the Lone Star State, and the city of Palestine has long been
4 renowned for its abundance of these beautiful trees and for its
5 famous Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration; and

6 WHEREAS, Dogwoods, which are native to the Palestine area,
7 can grow to a height of 30 feet and feature a broad canopy of
8 branches that burst into bloom in March and April in East Texas; the
9 result is a dazzling floral display of majestic white and rosy pink
10 petals; and

11 WHEREAS, The Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration traces its
12 origins to 1938, when local residents Charles W. Woodbridge and
13 Eugene Fish discussed their shared appreciation of the trees and
14 hatched the idea of creating an event to showcase the many dogwoods
15 in and around Palestine; their plan became a reality in 1939, when
16 more than 20,000 people took part in the inaugural Dogwood Trails
17 gathering; and

18 WHEREAS, In the early years, visitors had to drive rough and
19 often muddy roads and trudge through densely wooded areas to get a
20 glimpse of the loveliest blooms; to make the trees more accessible,
21 organizers sought permission to use a plot of land north of the city
22 owned by E. W. and H. R. Link; it contained several groves of
23 dogwood trees, and with the help of volunteers, a formal trail
24 system was completed there in 1941; it became a permanent

1 attraction after M. A. Davey purchased the central portion of the
2 tract and gifted it to Anderson County; the 254-acre Davey Dogwood
3 Park was named in his honor and today features miles of roads and
4 hike-and-bike trails; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the years, the dogwood trails have remained a
6 source of great pride to the people of Palestine, who have
7 contributed time and labor to maintain the trees and trails for the
8 enjoyment of locals and visitors alike; their efforts have helped
9 make their city an extremely popular springtime destination, with
10 thousands of people flocking to Davey Dogwood Park and other area
11 locations for the trails and celebration; and

12 WHEREAS, There is an intrinsic and undeniable joy in
13 witnessing the delicate splendor of a dogwood tree in bloom, and
14 through the efforts of several generations of citizens, the trails
15 have become an essential part of the identity and character of
16 Palestine; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate Palestine as the official Dogwood Trails Capital
19 of Texas; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
21 [391.003](#)(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
22 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
23 passed by the legislature.