



**OHIO PARKS AND
RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Woody Woodward, Executive Director

January 24, 2019

Hope Taft
2933 Lower Bellbrook Rd.
Spring Valley, OH 45370

Dear Mrs. Taft;

On behalf of the more than 2,000 members of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, we are pleased to join with you in advocating to designate April "Native Plant Month" in Ohio.

Park systems around Ohio are among the leaders in our state in propagating native plants. A number of our largest park districts now feature native plant nurseries as part of their on-going effort to maintain ecological balance in the state. Native plants are the foundation of our natural ecosystems and protect Ohio's biodiversity. Native plants do a better job of providing food and shelter for native wild animals than do introduced plants, while also attracting and maintaining important pollinators to our state. Finally, native plants help to quell the spread of many of the invasive species which have done damage to our biodiversity.

We are grateful for your work, and especially pleased that Representative Wiggam and Senator Hackett will be introducing legislation to designate April Native Plant Month. The designation will help to provide a focal point much needed education efforts on this topic.

OPRA encourages all members of the Ohio General Assembly to co-sponsor and be supportive of this effort.

Thank you again for your work.

Best,

Woody Woodward
Executive Director

