



GUIDE FOR ROADSIDE WILDFLOWER MANAGEMENT

A Supplement to the Guide for Roadside Vegetation Management

March 15, 2017

Purpose:

To provide guidance for the establishment and management of Wildflower Areas.

Management of Wildflower Areas:

A wildflower area can be established by the District at anytime.

- Wildflower areas can be within and beyond the routine mowing limits established by the [Department's Guide for Roadside Vegetation Management](#). Additional direction about the management of Wildflower Areas can be found in the [Department's Wildflower Program Procedure](#).
- Determining appropriate plants, locations, and extents of wildflower areas requires a combination of engineering and scientific judgment and expertise. For motorist safety, a wildflower area will typically not be within 15 feet of the edge of pavement or to the toe of the slope, whichever is less. The size and shape of wildflower areas shall be determined to simplify maintenance. There is no minimum or maximum size or extent for a wildflower area.
- The Department's [State Vegetation Management Specialist](#) and [State Transportation Landscape Architect](#) are available to assist the District Wildflower Coordinator with development and implementation of wildflower area planting plans and management plans. Statewide analysis of Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) data may also be useful in determining the start and end points and shape of wildflower areas. Due to the seasonal and short-lived nature of native plants and wildflowers, many species are not always visible. Care should be taken to be aware of these species when determining the location, size, and shape of a wildflower area. Proximity to state, federal, and private conservation land, and to the plants' natural habitat (as documented by the FNAI), and other scientific and anecdotal evidence can assist in identifying appropriate locations for Wildflower areas. The [Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Florida](#) coproduced in 2000 by the Department and FNAI can assist in plant identification.
- The public has been advised that a wildflower resolution similar to the model resolution found on the Florida Wildflower Foundation website is considered the best means for municipalities and counties to request that the Department establish a wildflower area, or to modify mowing frequency or limits. A link to [Florida Wildflower Foundation](#) on the Department website provides guidance and useful information about how to request a wildflower area. Written requests for wildflower areas will be subject to review and concurrence of the Department.
- Within Wildflower Areas, the mowing frequency and schedule should allow time for wildflowers to grow, flower, and set seed. Within any wildflower area, mowing should commence only with documented authorization from the Department.
- Wildflower areas can be delineated with roadside signs or maps.