

RESOLUTION 2023- 03

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES IN SUPPORT OF ITS DESIGNATION AS AN INDIANA AUDUBON BIRDTOWN

WHEREAS, birds connect us to nature, inspire wonder and tranquility, pollinate plants, consume mosquitoes and other insects, and help maintain healthy and balanced ecosystems;

WHEREAS, birds and other wildlife require native plants with which they co-evolved to meet their life-sustaining needs for food, shelter, and places to rear their young;

WHEREAS, native plants are well adapted to local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less water, fertilizer, and care than non-native plants;

WHEREAS, native plants help restore biodiverse and balanced habitats we have lost through development;

WHEREAS, we are privileged to reside in the heart of the rare and fragile ecosystem of the Indiana Dunes National Park, that status also conveys upon our town a responsibility to maintain and enhance the quality of our natural environment;

WHEREAS, unmanaged (i.e., wild, natural, or neglected) property rapidly becomes a monoculture overrun by invasive plant species;

WHEREAS, birds are endangered by habitat loss, climate change, insecticides, collisions with windows, and a variety of predators (e.g., cats, dogs, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and larger birds);

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The town of Ogden Dunes shall not enact any regulation prohibiting the use of native vegetation on any portion of residents' private property. (Native plants are straight species – identifiable by only their Latin names – that evolved in a particular ecosystem prior to European settlement and have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife. Cultivars, nativars, hybrids, and brand-name plants are not native.)

The town of Ogden Dunes shall not install invasive plants on any town property, shall make a good faith effort to install locally native plants on non-private property, and will support initiatives to remove invasive plants from both private and non-private property.

Homeowners are encouraged to install and maintain managed natural landscapes on all portions of their property. Such landscapes may include native species (i.e., grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees of any height, including ones that have gone to seed), non-invasive non-natives, and discreetly located compost and brush piles. A managed natural landscape may not include any plant identified by an applicable government agency as a noxious weed, nor may it include plants left untended, wild, natural, unsightly, or posing a hazard.

Homeowners are encouraged to keep cats indoors and to pursue knowledge about the dangers faced by outdoor cats and birds.

In cases where homeowners have experienced multiple bird crashes, they are strongly encouraged to take steps to prevent birds from crashing into their home's windows.

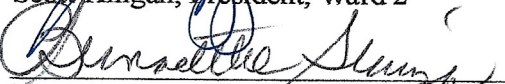
Additional information may be found on the Ogden Dunes Website (<http://ogdendunes.in.gov>) and especially on the page of the town's Environmental Advisory Board (<http://ogdendunes.in.gov/environmental-advisory-board>)

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Ogden Dunes Town Council this 4th day of December, 2023.

OGDEN DUNES TOWN COUNCIL

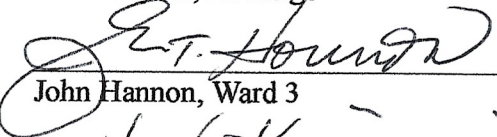


Scott Kingan, President, Ward 2

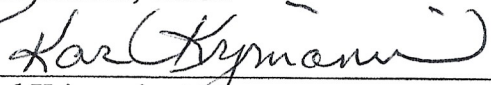


Bernadette Slawinski, Vice President, Ward 1

Dave Snyder, At-Large

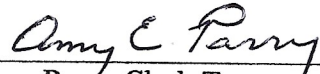


John Hannon, Ward 3



Karl Krizmanic, At-Large

ATTEST:



Amy Parry, Clerk-Treasurer