

[https://www.redandblack.com/athensnews/athens-replaces-official-flower-to-enhance-highway-beautification-project/article\\_61f9f9b2-a293-11e8-b911-a78506a234c6.html](https://www.redandblack.com/athensnews/athens-replaces-official-flower-to-enhance-highway-beautification-project/article_61f9f9b2-a293-11e8-b911-a78506a234c6.html)

FEATURED

## Athens replaces official flower to enhance highway beautification project

Olivia Adams | Enterprise Reporter Aug 18, 2018



Daffodils at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, March 31, 2018. (Photo/Rebecca Wright, <http://rebeccamariwright.com/>)

Rebecca Wright

While some Athens residents may have been unaware that their city ever had an official flower, the daffodil has replaced the iris as Athens' official flower, thanks to a newly passed resolution spearheaded by District 4 Commissioner Allison Wright.

At the Aug. 7 Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens meeting, Wright lobbied for the change to honor the efforts of Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful. The Mayor and City Council of Athens originally adopted the iris as the official flower of Athens in 1946.

“On this day when our mayor designates the daffodil as Athens-Clarke County’s official flower, it is important to recognize the efforts of KACCB to initiate and sustain a major collaborative project that has greatly improved the aesthetics of the Athens community,” said Wright in the meeting.

According to Wright, KAACB began a partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation over a decade ago to beautify State Route Loop 10 by planting daffodils. In the first year of the program, KAACB volunteers planted approximately 2,000 daffodils. Since then, nearly 500 volunteers have planted more than 100,000 daffodil bulbs on five SR 10 Loop interchanges.

Wright, who read the resolution, also said the flower was historically appropriate for Athens given its mythological roots.

“[The daffodil] is believed to have received its name from the Greek myth of Narcissus,” the resolution reads. “In a community named after Athens, Greece, the great center of learning in the classical world, it is only fitting that our community should designate an ancient flower cultivated by the Greeks themselves as our official flower.”

Mayor Nancy Denson said she was “gladly signing that” and thanked Executive Director of KAACB Stacey Farrell and Public Information Officer for ACC Jeff Montgomery for their leadership on the resolution. Members from KAACB were present for the unanimously passed resolution and received a framed official copy of the resolution from Denson.

The daffodil is a symbol of hope, renewal, optimism, rebirth and new beginnings and is the oldest cultivated plant, according to Wright at the meeting. “[The daffodil] is a self-sufficient plant capable of thriving in the face of almost any obstacle much like the resilient people of our community.”