PROCLAMATION

To all to whom these presents come – Greetings to City of Ogden:

WHEREAS: Native plants are an important part of Arkansas’s natural heritage and history, including Little River County and the City of Ogden;

WHEREAS: Arkansas’s native plants are indigenous to our southwest region, and have adapted and evolved over many years to flourish in the unique geography, hydrology, and microclimates of our state; and

WHEREAS: More than 2,300 native plant species make for a diverse state flora; 11 of these species are endemic to Arkansas and found nowhere else in the world; and 5 of these species are federally threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS: Native plants provide high-quality food and shelter for Arkansas’s native wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, and both game and nongame species; and

WHEREAS: Native plants support more than 300 species or resident and migratory birds in Arkansas, many of which are of concern and increasingly threatened by climate change; and

WHEREAS: Native plants and their derivatives provide food, medicine, and other essentials; Arkansas has benefited from the economic impact of native plants, ranging from pecans to muscadine; and

WHEREAS: Gardens and landscapes composed of Arkansas’s native plants conserve water, save energy, and reduce pollutants and pesticides in comparison to turf grass; and

WHEREAS: the Arkansas office of the National Audubon Society as well as other organizations and businesses, including nurseries and retail-garden centers, work to expand the market for our native plants; and

WHEREAS: By cultivating Arkansas’s native plants, we honor our heritage, sustain the beauty and benefits of our environmental resources, and preserve a natural link to wildland areas both past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sandra Furlow, Mayor of the City of Ogden, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20, 2020, as NATIVE PLANT WEEK IN OGDEN,

and I encourage all of our citizens to celebrate native plants.

__________________________Mrs. Sandra Furlow_________________ March 10, 2020