

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of [your city council or county commission of your city and state here] designating [your city or county here] as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate.

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of 90% of the world's wild plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, due in part to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought to the United States from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, vegetables and even dairy products--one in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and,
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards, backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and nature-related organizations; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, [your city or county here] chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, [your city or county here] should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- XXX
- XXX
- XXX

**NOW, THEREFORE,** [your city or county here] resolves as follows:

1. The [your city or county here] [appropriate department name] Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The [appropriate position title] of [your city or county here] is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison.

3. Facilitation of the [your city or county here] BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the [committee name here] Committee.
4. The [committee name here] Committee is authorized to, and should:
  - a. **Celebration:** Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase [your city or county name here]'s commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.
  - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the [your city or county name here] website which includes, at minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government's BEE CITY USA liaison [title of liaison here], contact information for the "[committee name here] Committee," and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
  - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
    - i. Identification and inventory of [City or County] real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
    - ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species.
    - iii. Creation of a least toxic integrated pesticide management plan, and
    - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public.
    - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
  - d. **Policy:** Establish, through the [City or County], a policy in the [Plan name here] Plan of the [City's or County's] Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
  - e. **Plan Review:** Review the [Plan name here] Plan and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.
  - f. **Renewal:** After completing the first full year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the [your city or county name here]'s BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on [your city or county name here]'s population.

ADOPTED by the [City Council or County Commission] of the [your city or county name, state here], this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name of Mayor or Chair here]  
 [Mayor or Chair]

Approved as to form:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name of City or County Attorney here]  
 [City or County] Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
 [Name of City or County Clerk here]  
 [City or County] Clerk