

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY
TO JOIN THE BEE CITY USA ORGANIZATION**

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, thanks to the more than 500 species of native pollinators in North Carolina, along with honey bees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; 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, residents of the City of Winston-Salem have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, the goals of BEE CITY USA are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan, which seeks to ensure a healthy environment and create policies that sustain our environment; and

WHEREAS, supporting native and honey bees and other pollinators promotes environmental awareness, sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden clubs and suppliers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- 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;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;

- 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 flowering plants, 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;
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor. The Assistant to the Operations Director of Winston-Salem is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison. Oversight of the Winston-Salem BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Office of Sustainability.

WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability is authorized to, and should:

- 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 Winston-Salem's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.
- Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Winston-Salem 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, contact information for the Office of Sustainability, and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
- Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
 - Identification and inventory of City real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
 - 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.
 - Creation of a least toxic integrated pesticide management plan, and
 - Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public.
 - Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
- Establish, through the City, a policy to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
- Review the City's vegetation management guidelines 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.

- After completing the first full year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the Winston-Salem'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 Winston-Salem's population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem do hereby accept the designation and commits to the standards of BEE CITY USA.

