

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
DESIGNATING THE CITY OF OLYMPIA AS A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE.**

WHEREAS, the goal of Bee City USA is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, native bees and other pollinators are essential for a healthy ecosystem on a global and local level; and

WHEREAS, native bees and other pollinators are essential for sustainable food production on a global and local level; 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, 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, to foster environmental awareness and sustainability and to further mobilize community stewards, the City of Olympia chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, bee-friendly communities, such as Olympia, can benefit local and regional economies through healthy 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 seasons.
- Provides clean 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 wildflowers, shrubs, trees and grasses in ornamental landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- 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.

- 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Olympia deems that becoming a Bee City will enhance the quality of life in Olympia;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Olympia is hereby designated as a Bee City USA affiliate.
2. The City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation and Public Works Departments are hereby designated as the Bee City USA sponsors.
3. The Park Stewardship and Environmental Services Program and Planning Supervisors are designated as the Bee City USA liaison.
4. Facilitation of the City of Olympia Bee City USA program is assigned to the City of Olympia staff committee known as the Habitat Working Group. The Habitat Working Group is authorized to, and should:

a. Celebration: Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase City of Olympia’s commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding 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 City of Olympia website which includes, at minimum a copy of this resolution and links to the national Bee City USA website; contact information for the Habitat Working Group 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 includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying City of Olympia’s real property that can be enhanced with pollinator friendly plantings; distributing informational or educational materials to the public; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.

d. Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management: Retain an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.

e. Policy & Plans: Establish, through the City, a recommendation in the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan to acknowledge and commit to the Bee City USA designation, review other applicable plans for improvements to pest 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 calendar year as a Bee City USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of City of Olympia’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 City of Olympia’s population.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____, 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael M. Young

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY