

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CHARLOTTE AS A BEE CITY USA AFFILIATE

WHEREAS, pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species; and

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honeybees, 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, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; 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 growers; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte has shown a commitment to pollinators by creating and maintaining pollinator gardens on city property including Historic Elmwood Cemetery, Old City Hall, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, various CMPD locations, Third Ward Gathering Garden, and the Urban Arboretum Trail Garden at Martin St., among others; and

WHEREAS, the Keep Charlotte Beautiful committee, appointed by the Charlotte Mayor and City Council, engages over 450 volunteer groups annually to proactively beautify, maintain, and protect a clean, healthy, and safe environment, and continues to foster collaboration among government, residents, businesses and other private and nonprofit partners to support and inspire sustainable behaviors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what can be done to help sustain them, this resolution is adopted by the Charlotte City Council to proudly become a BEE CITY USA affiliate as follows:

1. The Housing & Neighborhood Services Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. Facilitation of Charlotte's BEE CITY USA program will be facilitated by city staff and the Keep Charlotte Beautiful Committee (KCB).
3. City staff, KCB and community partners shall work together to advance the BEE CITY USA affiliate commitments, including activities such as:
 - Publicizing the Bee City USA program,
 - Hosting educational events and/or pollinator habitat plantings/restoration,
 - Developing a list of recommended native plants,
 - Creating or expanding pollinator-friendly habitats, and
 - Working with the city's Landscape Management division to identify improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation.