

1 **..Title**

2 **BEE CITY USA®** - For the purpose of accepting the designation and committing to the  
3 standards of BEE CITY USA.

4 **..Body**

5 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**  
6 **City of Annapolis**

7  
8 **Resolution 16-16**

9  
10 **Introduced by: Mayor Pantelides**

11  
12 **Referred to**  
13 **Environmental Matters Committee**

14  
15 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

16  
17 **BEE CITY USA®**

18  
19 **FOR** the purpose of accepting the designation and committing to the standards of BEE CITY  
20 USA.

21  
22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the goal of BEE CITY USA is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and  
24 communities for bees and other pollinators; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees  
27 that were brought here from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary  
28 choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables: “One in every three bites of food we eat  
29 is courtesy of insect pollination. Even our meat and milk trace back to insects that  
30 pollinate the alfalfa and other feed for beef cattle and cows” (Mace Vaughan,  
31 Pollinator Program Director for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation);  
32 and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due  
35 to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and  
36 diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, communities have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both  
39 public and private land; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and  
42 increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and  
43 backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Naturalists, Master  
44 Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and  
45 clubs; and  
46

1 **WHEREAS**, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:  
2

- 3 • Healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of  
4 about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2)  
5 provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects  
6 that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.  
7
- 8 • Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination.  
9
- 10 • Increased habitat for natural enemies of crop pests and therefore reduced need for and  
11 costs associated with pesticides.  
12
- 13 • Increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and  
14 growers.  
15
- 16 • Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping  
17 equipment and supplies, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and  
18 premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and  
19 reputation of its community of origin; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:  
22

- 23 • Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.  
24
- 25 • Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and  
26 butterfly puddling.  
27
- 28 • Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects on pollinators.  
29
- 30 • Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers,  
31 shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native  
32 plants with which they co-evolved.  
33
- 34 • Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to  
35 educate the public and build awareness.  
36
- 37 • Provides for safe and humane removal of bees when required.  
38
- 39 • Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins,  
40 fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators;  
41 and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public  
44 about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain  
45 them, the City of Annapolis, in partnership with Anne Arundel County, Maryland

1 and the Town of Highland Beach, Maryland agrees to meet the following  
2 commitments required of all BEE CITY USA communities:  
3

- 4 1) Pass this BEE CITY USA resolution (which articulates these commitments).  
5  
6 2) Designate a local government department as the BEE CITY USA sponsor and an  
7 employee from that department as the BEE CITY USA “liaison;” and assign  
8 facilitation of the local BEE CITY USA program either to a) a new or existing  
9 commission or b) a non-profit organization, to encourage and coordinate local  
10 pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This body will serve as the  
11 intermediary between the citizenry and local government on matters of enhancing  
12 pollinator awareness, health and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:  
13  
14 • Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or  
15 some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator  
16 habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that  
17 showcase the municipality’s commitment to enhancing pollinator health  
18 and habitat.  
19  
20 • Annually apply for renewal of the community’s designation and submit a  
21 report of the previous year’s BEE CITY USA activities following the  
22 format provided.  
23  
24 3) Publicly acknowledge the community’s commitment by agreeing to a)  
25 install/maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent  
26 location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the local  
27 government’s website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed  
28 Resolution and the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the  
29 local government’s BEE CITY USA liaison and designated “facilitator  
30 commission or non-profit organization committee,” and reports of the pollinator-  
31 friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).  
32

33 **NOW THEREFORE,**

34  
35 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the City of Annapolis  
36 accepts the designation and commits to the standards of BEE CITY USA.  
37

38 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this  
39 resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.  
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41  
42 **EXPLANATION**

43 CAPITAL LETTERS indicate matter added to existing law.  
44 ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken from existing law.  
45 Underlining indicates amendments.