



Legislation Text

File #: R-16-16, Version: 1

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

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE
City of Annapolis**

Resolution 16-16

Introduced by: Mayor Pantelides

**Referred to
Environmental Matters Committee**

A RESOLUTION concerning

BEE CITY USA®

FOR the purpose of accepting the designation and committing to the standards of BEE CITY USA.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers,

children, educators, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and clubs; and

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

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

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects on pollinators.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native 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 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 native pollinators; 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, the City of Annapolis, in partnership with Anne Arundel County, Maryland and the Town of Highland Beach, Maryland agrees to meet the following commitments required of all BEE CITY USA communities:

- 1) Pass this BEE CITY USA resolution (which articulates these commitments).

- 2) Designate a local government department as the BEE CITY USA sponsor and an employee from that department as the BEE CITY USA “liaison;” and assign facilitation of the local BEE CITY USA program either to a) a new or existing commission or b) a non-profit organization, to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This body will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and local government on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, health and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
- 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 the municipality’s commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.
 - Annually apply for renewal of the community’s designation and submit a report of the previous year’s BEE CITY USA activities following the format provided.
- 3) Publicly acknowledge the community’s commitment by agreeing to a) install/maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the local government’s website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed Resolution and the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government’s BEE CITY USA liaison and designated “facilitator commission or non-profit organization committee,” and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL THAT THE LAST WHEREAS CLAUSE IS INCORPORATED INTO THE BODY OF THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN HERE.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that the City of Annapolis accepts the designation and commits to the standards of BEE CITY USA.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL that this resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.

EXPLANATION

CAPITAL LETTERS indicate matter added to existing law.

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates matter stricken from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments.