



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

JAMES E. TATE JR.
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

DISTRICT 1

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DETROIT AS A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering 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 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, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat (A) Is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; (B) is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; (C) comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; 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 (the pests);

employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because; (1) this designation encourages residents to implement green infrastructure projects on public and private land, (2) The State of Michigan passed House Resolution No. 141 on July 21, 2021 to declare the 19th of July of each year as National Urban Beekeeping Day, (3) Michigan is among the leading states in honey production and honeybee assisted agriculture throughout the world, and (4) supporting farmer markets where residents purchase food from local farms to address food insecurity for people and pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLED, in order to enhance understanding among the public about pollinators' vital role and what residents can do to promote their sustainability, The City of Detroit supports and encourages healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement resolving as follows:

1. Passing this Bee City USA resolution
2. Designating a Bee City USA sponsor, Detroit Hives, or their designee, to coordinate through the City's liaison, the Director of Urban Agriculture, or their designee, to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities.
3. The facilitation of Detroit's BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the DETROIT BEE CITY Committee to serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and the municipality on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, health and habitat.
4. The DETROIT BEE CITY Committee, with support from Detroit Hives and the Mayor of the City of Detroit is authorized to and shall:
 - a. Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Detroit's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
 - b. Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City of Detroit website which includes, at minimum a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for the City's BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous years; and the City's recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan
 - c. Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitats on public and private land enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and tracking (by

square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.

- d. Create and adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) plan design to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
- e. Establish, through the City of Detroit, a policy in the “Place to Bee Plan of Detroit’s Comprehensive Plan” to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the “Place to Bee” Plan and other relevant documents to consider 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. After the DETROIT BEE CITY Committee completes the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for a renewal of Detroit’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 Detroit’s population.

ADOPTED by the Detroit City Council on this date, Tuesday, February 6, 2024.