

RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2021

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS INDIANA,  
DESIGNATING COLUMBUS 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 a healthy habitat, rich in variety of native plants and free of pesticides; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honey bees, 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 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 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 minimize risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than attacking the symptoms (the pest); 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**, Columbus should be certified a BEE CITY USA community because our goal is to partner with and educate community member to manage invasive species for the improvement of Columbus' natural habitats;



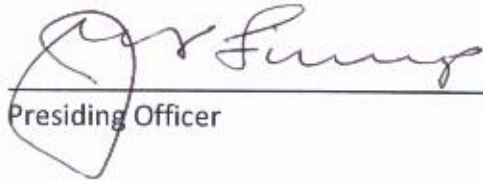
**NOW, THEREFORE,** in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Columbus chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

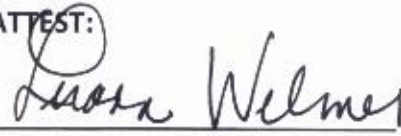
1. The City of Columbus parks and Recreation Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor
2. The Volunteer Coordinator of the Columbus Parks Department is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of Columbus' BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Columbus Pollinator Committee.
4. The Columbus Pollinator Committee is a group of people with a common goal of educating Columbus citizens to promote pollinator protection within our Parks and community. The Columbus Pollinator Committee is represented by the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, Columbus Aviation, Purdue Extension, Landmark Columbus, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Bartholomew County Soil and Water, Bartholomew County Public Library, Master Gardeners and other local citizens. The Columbus Pollinator Committee is authorized to and shall:
  - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Columbus' 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 Columbus Parks and Recreation website which includes, at minimum, a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for your BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities and the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
  - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying Columbus' real property that can be 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. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt 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 of Columbus, a policy in the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's Park System master plan

to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the Master Plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation and, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.

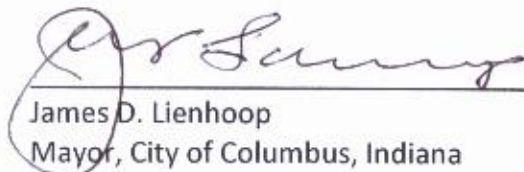
- f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Columbus' BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Columbus' population.

DULY PASSED on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2021, by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

  
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Presiding Officer

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer, City of Columbus, Indiana

Presented to me the Mayor of Columbus, Indiana the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021 at 6:18 o'clock 6 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James D. Lienhoop  
Mayor, City of Columbus, Indiana