



SUBJECT: Approval of the adoption of a resolution designating the City of Novi as a Bee City USA affiliate and affirming commitments to conserve native pollinators.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Attorney

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation that provides a framework for communities to conserve native pollinators. The program outlines providing pollinators with healthy habitat rich in a variety of native plants, nest sites, and protection from pesticides. While the program focus is bees, primarily native species, it also benefits a variety of other pollinators and the environment as a whole.

The City of Novi Beautification Commission, as part of their commitment to both the enhancement and preservation of natural beauty in the City, would take on the facilitation of the Bee City USA initiative commitments and requirements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the adoption of a resolution designating the City of Novi as a Bee City USA affiliate and affirming commitments to conserve native pollinators.

CITY OF NOVI
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CITY OF NOVI AS A BEE CITY USA AFFILIATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on April 8, 2024, at 7 o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

ABSENT: Councilmembers _____

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____.

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 Novi should be certified a BEE CITY USA community because in 2015 the City of Novi Beautification Commission installed the Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation and then expanded it the following year with a variety of Michigan/Midwest native flowers and grasses that provide food for butterflies and other pollinators; and are committed to environmental sustainability of which pollinators are a vital part.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that 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 Novi chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The City of Novi Manager's Office is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The Executive Assistant of the City Manager, or their designee, is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the City of Novi's BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Beautification Commission.
4. The Beautification Commission, alongside City staff, is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the City of Novi's 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 City of Novi 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 the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and your recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan (explained below).
 - 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 the City of Novi's 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 Novi, a policy in an appropriate City of Novi Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review any relevant plans and 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. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of the City of Novi'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 the City of Novi's population.

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this 8th day of April, 2024, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
City of Novi

MEMORANDUM



TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KATHERINE OPPERMANN, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
SUBJECT: BEE CITY USA
DATE: MARCH 7, 2024

The City of Novi Beautification Commission, as part of their commitment to both the enhancement and preservation of natural beauty in the City, would like to encourage City Council to take on the commitment of becoming a Bee City USA affiliate.

[Bee City USA](#) is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation that, alongside its sister program of Bee Campus USA, provides a framework for communities to conserve native pollinators. The program outlines providing pollinators with healthy habitat rich in a variety of native plants, nest sites, and protection from pesticides. While the program focus is bees, primarily native species, it also benefits a variety of other pollinators such as butterflies, moths, and non-native honeybees as well as the environment as a whole.

The first step to becoming a Bee City USA affiliate is for City Council to adopt a Resolution which outlines various commitments to conserve pollinators including:

1. **Increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites**, ideally creating, or enhancing pollinator habitat on public land each year
2. **Reduce the use of pesticides and incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into City policies and plans**, including the creation of or review of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan
3. **Community Education**: By providing pollinator awareness event(s) and making information on habitat creation and management readily available to the community such as native plant and local plant supplier lists through the city webpage

In taking on this commitment the City of Novi would become one of the 204 current affiliate Bee City USA communities across the United States of America, and among the earliest adopters in Michigan.

With City Council's approval and adoption of the Resolution, when presented at an upcoming meeting, the Beautification Commission intends to take on the work of implementing these steps alongside City staff.