RESOLUTION
NO 22-81

RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS TO OBTAIN A BEE CITY USA DESGINATION

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 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 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 has established a habitat pollinator corridor on land in Valley View Park to support pollinators; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

NOW, THEREFORE, 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 Council Bluffs chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The City of Council Bluffs, Parks and Recreation Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The Director of Parks and Recreation is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of Council Bluffs' BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Council Bluffs BEE CITY USA committee.
4. The Council Bluffs BEE CITY USA Committee is authorized to and shall:
    a. Celebration: Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Council Bluffs' 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 Council Bluffs 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 Council Bluffs' 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 a policy in the Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the 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. Renewal: After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Council Bluffs 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 Council Bluffs' population.

ADOPTED
AND
APPROVED March 14, 2022

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Matthew J. Walsh, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jodi Quakenbush, City Clerk