

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0721--07
A RESOLUTION of Apex Town Council
Designating Apex, North Carolina 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 90% of the world's wild plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, due in part to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought to the United States from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, vegetables and even dairy products--one in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; 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 nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and,
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards, backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and nature-related organizations; 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 Town of Apex chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, Town of Apex should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- The goals of BEE CITY USA are consistent with Town adopted polices and goals.
- Becoming a BEE CITY USA affiliate publicly announces Apex's intent to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land and provides a platform for outreach to the community.
- The Apex Bee City committee supports designation and is willing to serve as the citizen's group required by BEE CITY USA.
- The Town's staff plays an important role in the integration of methods to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation, and has agreed it is feasible to provide support.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Apex resolves as follows:

1. The Town of Apex Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The Halle Cultural Arts Center Manager of Town of Apex is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison.
3. Facilitation of the Town of Apex BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Town of Apex Bee City Committee.
4. The Bee City Committee is authorized to, and should:
 - a. **Celebration:** 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 Town of Apex commitment to enhancing 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 Town of Apex's website which includes, at minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government's BEE CITY USA liaison Halle Cultural Arts Center Manager contact information for the Bee City Committee, and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
 - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Identification and inventory of Town of Apex real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
 - ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs.
 - iii. Creation of a least toxic integrated pesticide management plan, and
 - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public.
 - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
 - d. **Plan Review:** Review Town plans, policies and procedures and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.
 - e. **Renewal:** After completing the first full year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the Apex'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 Apex's population.

ADOPTED by the Apex Town Council of the Apex, North Carolina, this 21st day of July 2020.

Jacques K. Gilbert
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Laurie Hohe
Town Attorney

Attest:

Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk