

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 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 doing so 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.

