



## Bee City USA

An Initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

### ABOUT BEE CITY USA & BEE CAMPUS USA

When people hear the word “bee” they often think of a single bee species, the European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). However, the United States is also home to just over 3,600 native (wild) bee species such as bumble bees, leafcutter bees, sweat bees, mason bees, longhorn bees, and mining bees. Native pollinators are particularly important because they evolved alongside native plants and in many cases are the most effective pollinators — and in a few cases, the only pollinators. Pollinators are keystone species in essentially every terrestrial ecosystem on earth, assisting in plant reproduction and supporting other species of wildlife. Pollinators touch our lives in numerous ways each day, including being responsible for approximately one third of the food and drink we consume. The value of crop pollination has been estimated between \$18 and \$27 billion annually in the U.S.

Research has shown significant declines in native pollinator population sizes and ranges globally. In fact, up to 40% of pollinator species on earth may be at risk of extinction in the coming years as a result of habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change.

Thinking globally and acting locally, Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to come together to conserve native pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants, provides nest sites, and is protected from pesticides.

As the name suggests, the focus of Bee City USA is bees, and primarily our native species. The steps that affiliates take to conserve our native bees, including creating safe habitats and hosting community events, will also help other pollinators including butterflies and moths as well as the non-native honeybee. One of the most impactful actions any affiliate can take is to encourage others to think beyond the honeybee and recognize the true diversity of bees that sustain our communities.

Joining the cities and campuses across the country rallying to protect pollinators is a great way to bring your community together to create positive change.

### OUR HISTORY

Bee City USA began in Asheville, North Carolina in 2012 when founder, Phyllis Stiles, threw herself into creating a program to help communities come together to help reverse pollinator declines. Phyllis’ goal was to engage as many communities as possible in pollinator conservation. What she lacked in funding she made up for in passion, enthusiastically giving presentations and spreading awareness about pollinators and the program she had started to help them. In 2014 Bee City USA gained its second affiliate when Talent, Oregon applied.

Since then, Bee City USA has spread across the country and continues to grow as more communities learn about pollinator declines and become energized to participate in conserving these essential species. In 2015 Bee City USA expanded to college and university campuses, launching the sister initiative, Bee Campus USA. As the programs grew, Phyllis sought a home for Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA that could support them and continue to expand their reach and impact.

In 2018 Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA became initiatives of [the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#). Established in 1971, the Xerces Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and enthusiasm of citizens to implement conservation programs worldwide.

## **Bee City USA Application Steps**

### **Form a Committee**

Every committee will be different but should include individuals with experience and interests that will help the committee complete the commitments. Committees generally include a mix of volunteers and city staff. The committee should have a chair or multiple co-chairs. This committee should be managed either by the affiliate (i.e. City or County) or a non-profit organization and should have a regular meeting schedule that is open to the public. See the resolution for a full list of requirements associated with the committee.

### **Assign Facilitation to a Local Government Body or Non-Profit Organization**

Assign facilitation of the Bee City USA effort to a new or existing committee. This committee may be based in a local government or with a non-profit organization and may be an existing committee or a newly formed subcommittee.

### **Designate a Local Government Department as a Sponsor**

Designate a local government department as the Bee City USA program and committee sponsor and an employee from that department as the Bee City USA committee liaison. The liaison may or may not serve on the Bee City USA committee, but they facilitate communications between the city, the city staff and elected body, and the Bee City USA committee as needed.

### **Complete the Online Application Form**

Log in at [https://beecityusa.org/register\\_beecityusa/](https://beecityusa.org/register_beecityusa/) to create a profile and complete the online application form. Your application form will be reviewed once you indicate that it is complete and ready for review.

### **Complete the Draft Bee City USA Resolution**

Complete the draft resolution by downloading the template and updating the areas highlighted in yellow. Upload your draft resolution to your online application for approval before submitting it to your local government.

### **Submit the Application and Resolution to your Local Government for Approval**

Present your Bee City USA application and resolution to your local government for formal approval and adoption. Make sure you receive a scanned copy of the adopted resolution to upload to your application.

### **Submit you Adopted Resolution and Pay the Application Fee**

Submit a scanned copy of your adopted resolution by uploading it to your online application and pay the application fee. Payment information is available once you begin your application. Once the final application, adopted resolution, and fee payment have been submitted, Xerces will notify all contacts listed on the application form of the approval of your application. Application and renewal fees are based on population size.

\$400.00 (Population 50,000 – 99,999)

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION** of [your city council or county commission of your city and state]  
designating [your city or county] 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 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, [your city or county] should be certified a BEE CITY USA community because [this is optional section for you to highlight anything your community has already done or plans to do to conserve pollinators]; and

**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, [your city or county] chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The [your city or county] [appropriate department name] Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The [appropriate position title] of [department above] is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of [your city or county]'s BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the [committee name] Committee.
4. The [committee name] Committee is authorized to and shall:

- a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase [your city or county name]'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 [your city or county name] 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 [City or County]'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 or County], a policy in the [Plan name] Plan of [City's or County's] Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the [Plan name] Plan 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 [your city or county name]'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 [your city or county name]'s population.

ADOPTED by the [City Council or County Commission] of the [your city or county name, state],  
 this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.