

RESOLUTION NO. 23-055

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS AS  
A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE**

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**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 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 Wichita should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* city because of an already existing and ever-growing group of pollinator-friendly community members which dedicate themselves to habitat restoration, public education, and community involvement. Prior efforts to connect people with nature and improve green spaces include: incorporating native

plants into community garden plans; bird, bug, and wildflower hikes; a local Science Cafe series which has lasted for over nine years; local merchants who specialize in native plants for pollinators; and city code which makes vegetation height exceptions for plants used in education or conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council now finds and determines 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 Wichita chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Wichita Department of Park & Recreation is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA Sponsor.
2. The Superintendent of Park Maintenance & Forestry of the Department of Park & Recreation is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison. Future Liaisons to be designated as appropriate by the Director of the Department of Park & Recreation.
3. The Bee City Planning Committee shall be responsible for facilitation of the City of Wichita's BEE CITY USA in coordination with the BEE CITY USA Liaison. The Bee City Planning Committee is not a board or commission of the City of Wichita and shall be managed by the non-profit entity Grassland Groupies, Inc.
4. The City of Wichita, through the BEE CITY USA Sponsor and Liaison, shall coordinate with the Bee City Planning Committee to support activities of the Committee including:
  - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the City of Wichita'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 Wichita website that 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 in the City of Wichita; and the recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan.
  - 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 Wichita'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.

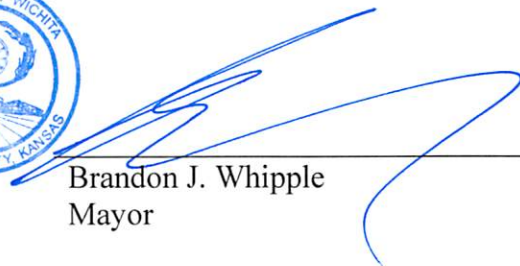
- d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt with City Council approval an integrated pest management plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
- e. **Policy & Plans:** Create for consideration by City Council a Pollinator Protection Plan policy for the City of Wichita's Community Investments Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the Pollinator Protection 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 the City of Wichita'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 Wichita's population.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Wichita, Kansas, on February 7, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jamie Buster  
City Clerk



  
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Brandon J. Whipple  
Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
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Jennifer Magaña  
City Attorney & Director of Law

1/27/23