



## A RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2021, TO REAFFIRM THE CITY'S LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND TO EXPRESS THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**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**, cities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and,

**WHEREAS**, City of Charleston should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because its municipal departments along with various non-profit organizations are working to create a more sustainable habitat for native pollinators and to reverse the threat currently facing pollinators.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, THAT IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE UNDERSTANDING AMONG STAFF AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE VITAL ROLE THAT POLLINATORS PLAY AND WHAT EACH OF US CAN DO TO SUSTAIN THEM, THE CITY OF CHARLESTON CHOOSES TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY POLLINATOR HABITAT CREATION AND ENHANCEMENT, RESOLVING AS FOLLOWS:**

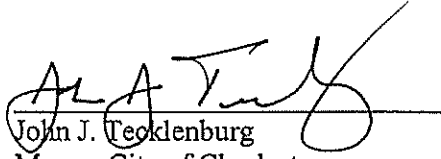
1. The City of Charleston Parks Department is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Keep Charleston Beautiful Programs Manager, within the Parks Department, is designated as the *BEE CITY USA* Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the City of Charleston's *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the Keep Charleston Beautiful's *BEE CITY USA* Subcommittee.
4. The Keep Charleston Beautiful *BEE CITY USA* Subcommittee is authorized to and shall:
  - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the City of Charleston'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 Charleston website which includes, at a 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 a 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 the City of Charleston'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 along with a list of local suppliers for those species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.

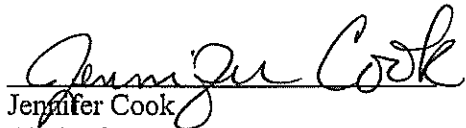
- d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and present an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
- e. **Policy & Plans:** Work to establish, through the City of Charleston's Comprehensive Plan a policy to acknowledge and commit to the *BEE CITY USA* designation and review the Sustainability 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.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

By:

  
John J. Tecklenburg  
Mayor, City of Charleston

ATTEST:

  
Jennifer Cook  
Clerk of Council