

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Richard McLeod, Community Development Director
Date: May 6, 2019
Subject: Adoption of Resolution Designating City of Dunwoody as a Bee City USA Affiliate

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Request to approve a Resolution and appropriate funding in support of the Sustainability Committee's application for Bee City USA designation.

DISCUSSION

As part of their role to promote and protect the environment through education and outreach efforts, the Sustainability Committee has assembled an application to designate the City of Dunwoody as a Bee City. The purpose of the designation is primarily to enhance an 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 by supporting educational and advocacy efforts on both public and private land.

The attached Resolution and action plan (Exhibit A) outline the commitments and obligations for the City of Dunwoody to achieve and maintain the designation. The annual cost for Bee City USA designation is \$400, due every January after the initial application. A report of the previous year's Bee City USA activities is also due each renewal period.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Mayor and City Council approve the attached Resolution and appropriate the funds in the budget to cover the cost of the application.

Attachments:

Resolution

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY**

RESOLUTION 2019-05-XX

**A RESOLUTION IN DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA DESIGNATING THE CITY OF DUNWOODY
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:
- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
 - Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators;
 - Provides water for drinking, nest-building, and butterfly puddling;
 - Is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat;
 - Is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
 - 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,** City of Dunwoody should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- The City of Dunwoody Master Plan is supported by the Community Development Department and its Sustainability Committee. We are striving to achieve sustainability best practices, like the BEE City USA goals within this resolution.
- The Dunwoody Nature Center is a highly utilized organization working in partnership with the City of Dunwoody to promote awareness of natural ecosystems and the role of pollinators through its annual Butterfly Festival, attended by thousands. It also routinely educates visitors on pollinators.
- Dunwoody citizens, including beekeeping organizations, are actively establishing pollinator friendly habitats today in our parks and promoting awareness at farmer's markets and other community events.

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, City of Dunwoody chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The City of Dunwoody Community Development Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The City Arborist of Sustainability Committee is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the City of Dunwoody BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Sustainability Committee.
4. The Sustainability Committee is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase City of Dunwoody'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 Dunwoody website which includes, at minimum:
 - i. a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website;
 - ii. contact information for your BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee;
 - iii. reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and
 - iv. 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, the following actions:
 - i. Identify and inventory City of Dunwoody real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
 - ii. Create a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species.
 - iii. Track (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:** Establish, through the City of Dunwoody, a policy in the Sustainability Plan of the City of Dunwoody Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
- f. **Plan Review:** 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.
- g. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of the City of Dunwoody'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 City of Dunwoody's population.

SO RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Dunwoody, Georgia, this 6th day of May, 2019.

Approved:

Denis L. Shortal, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk
(SEAL)