

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS DESIGNATING DENTON, TEXAS A *BEE CITY USA*®; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Denton, Texas strives to be a leader in sustainability as well as an environmental leader in every way possible, and is sensitive and aware of numerous environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, the City has become aware of the activities of the organization named *BEE CITY USA*; whose activities are to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought here from Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, we now have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the world have experienced dramatic declines over time due to a combination of habitat loss, the use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications and consequences for the future health of both flora and fauna; and

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

WHEREAS, cities supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS, there are also economic benefits of native and honey bee-friendliness, such as:

- Healthy ecosystems. Insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that are vital for clean air and water; plants which provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and plants which support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.
- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination.
- Increased habitat for natural enemies of crop pests and therefore, a reduced need for and costs associated with pesticides.
- Increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping equipment and supplies, hive rentals for pollination; heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, all of which activities enhance the visibility and reputation of its community of origin; and

WHEREAS, Denton, Texas should be designated and certified as a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- The City of Denton is committed to expanding pollinator habitat within city property;
- The City of Denton will host an annual beekeeping workshop and a local honey celebration;

- The City of Denton is committed to expanding the nineteen (19) acres of existing community gardens, which would benefit pollinators

WHEREAS, an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat provides for:

- Diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects on pollinators.
- Native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Safe and humane removal of bees when required.
- Undisturbed spaces (such as leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields, field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among City staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play, and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City of Denton, Texas agrees to meet the following commitments required of all *BEE CITY USA* communities:

- Pass this *BEE CITY USA* resolution; and
- Designate the City's Sustainability Department, acting by and through its Sustainability Coordinator as the City's Bee City USA sponsor; and
- The Sustainability Coordinator will be the Bee City USA liaison and assign facilitation of the local Bee City USA program, either to a new or existing city department or commission or to a non-profit organization, to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This organization will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and the municipality on all matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, health and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
  1. Annually celebrate "National Pollinator Week" which is the third full week of June or some other appropriate occasion; with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the City's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.
  2. Annually apply for renewal of the City's designation and submit a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities following the format provided.
- Publicly acknowledge the City's commitment by agreeing to: (a) install/maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the municipal website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed Resolution and the national *BEE CITY USA* website, as well as contact information for the municipality's *BEE CITY USA* liaison and designated "facilitator commission or non-profit organization committee," and contain reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the City has accomplished during the previous years.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. The Preamble to this Resolution is hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby accepts the designation of and commits to the standards of *BEE CITY USA*.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR

ATTEST:  
JENNIFER WALTERS, CITY SECRETARY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:  
ANITA BURGESS, CITY ATTORNEY

By: \_\_\_\_\_