

COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE  
CITY OF MEQUON

RESOLUTION 3918

A Resolution Designating Mequon, Wisconsin as a Bee City USA

**RECITALS**

A. The goal of the BEE CITY USA program is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators.

B. Thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with honeybees that were brought here from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

C. Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna.

D. Communities have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land.

E. 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.

F. The economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness include:

- Healthy ecosystems - insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate 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 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, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and reputation of its community of origin.

G. Mequon, Wisconsin should be certified a BEE CITY USA community because:

- Community interest in supporting sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators has grown as the decline in pollinator populations and habitat has received greater local and national media attention.
- The Mequon Nature Preserve has become a trusted community resource and facilitator of honeybee education.
- Resident participation in the local bee club sponsored by the Mequon Nature Preserve has increased steadily, demonstrating the community's growing desire to learn about bees and share experiences.

H. Ideal pollinator-friendly habitats:

- Provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provide clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Are pesticide-free or have pesticide use carried out in a manner to minimize effects on pollinators.
- Are comprised of mostly, if not all, 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.
- Include, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provide for safe and humane removal of bees when required.
- Provide undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields, or field margins, fallen tree and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators.

I. 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, Mequon, Wisconsin agrees to meet the following commitments required of all BEE CITY USA communities:

1. Pass this BEE CITY USA resolution (which articulates these commitments).
2. The Mequon Nature Preserve is hereby designated as the Bee City USA sponsor and Kristin Gies, Executive Director, as the Bee City USA "liaison" to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat and awareness activities. This body will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and local government on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, health, and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
  - a. Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or

promotions that showcase the municipality's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.

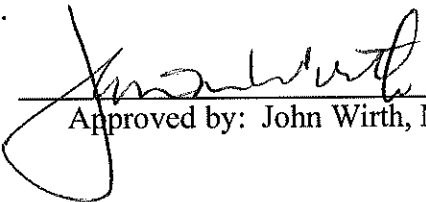
b. Annually apply for renewal of the community's designation and submit a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities following the format provided.

3. Publicly acknowledge the community's commitment by agreeing to:

a. install/maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location.

b. create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the local government's website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed Resolution and the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government's BEE CITY USA liaison and designated "facilitator commission or non-profit organization committee," and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING RECITALS, IT IS RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin that the Mequon Nature Preserve is authorized to submit an application to Bee City USA on behalf of the City of Mequon to obtain a "Bee City" designation and commits to the standards of Bee City USA.

  
Approved by: John Wirth, Mayor

Date Approved: March 8, 2022

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on March 8, 2022.

  
Caroline Fochs, City Clerk