

COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF MEQUON

RESOLUTION 3494

A Resolution Designating Mequon, Wisconsin as a Bee City USA

WHEREAS, the goal of BEE CITY USA is 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 introduced from Europe in the 1700s, Americans have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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

WHEREAS, 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, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:

- 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 honey bee 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; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects on pollinators.
- Is 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.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides for safe and humane removal of bees when required.
- Provides 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; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each citizen can do to sustain them, Mequon, Wisconsin agrees to meet the following commitments required of all BEE CITY USA communities:

- 1) Adopt 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 entity 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; and
 - 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).

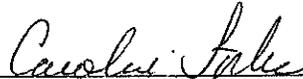
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council authorizes the Mequon Nature Preserve to submit an application to Bee City USA on behalf of the City of Mequon to obtain a "Bee City" designation and commits to the standards of Bee City USA.



Approved by: Dan Abendroth, Mayor

Date Approved: February 13, 2018

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on February 13, 2018.



Caroline Fochs, City Clerk