

**ORIGINAL**

**RESOLUTION NO.: R-2025-050**

Designating the City of Columbia 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 habitats consist primarily of native plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen; are nearly free of pesticides that can harm pollinators and their habitat; include undisturbed spaces for nesting and overwintering; provide connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and are maintained through thoughtful land management practices that minimize risks to people, pollinators, and the environment, while allowing the use of pesticides when other methods are not feasible; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia seeks to be certified a BEE CITY USA community because it actively supports pollinators by creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats in public parks, green spaces, and streetscapes, while also encouraging residents and businesses to plant native species and minimize pesticides to promote a healthier environment for pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia's Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor, and the Sustainability Facilitator of CPAC is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison, who will work with CPAC and City Departments such as Forestry and Beautification and Parks and Recreation.

WHEREAS, CPAC is authorized to, and will:

- Form a committee with a minimum of five members, including both internal and external members.
- Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create a webpage on the City of Columbia's website with this resolution, links to the national BEE CITY USA site, contact information for the City's Liaison and Committee, and reports of past pollinator-friendly activities the City has previously accomplished.

- Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or showcase to demonstrate the City of Columbia’s commitment to pollinator conservation and habitat expansion.
- Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat, which includes but is not limited to:
  - Inventory of City of Columbia properties suitable for pollinator-friendly plantings.
  - Creation of a recommended list of locally native plants, including wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees.
  - Development of a list of local suppliers for recommended native plant species.
  - Tracking of the annual square footage or acreage of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
- Create and adopt an Integrated Pest Management Plan within the initial years of designation to support the City’s ongoing reduction and future prevention of pesticide use.
- Establish, through the City, a policy in the Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
- Commit to submitting an annual renewal application, which includes a report of the previous year’s activities and payment of the \$500 renewal fee.

BE IT RESOLVED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia commit to enhancing pollinator health and habitat by supporting the creation, conservation, and education of pollinator-friendly spaces across all municipal and City owned or operated properties through the City’s designation as a Bee City USA affiliate.

Requested by:

Assistant City Manager Simons

Approved by:

*Cheresa B. Wilcox*  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

*[Signature]*  
City Attorney

*[Signature]*  
Mayor

ATTEST:

*Erika D. Hammond*  
City Clerk

Introduced: 08/05/2025  
Final Reading: 08/05/2025