

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FULTON

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA,
DESIGNATING SANDY SPRINGS 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, the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honey bees, are accountable for 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, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sandy Springs ("City") should be certified a BEE CITY USA because:

- Policy GS-E3 Build Green of the Next Ten Comprehensive Plan pledges to "[p]romote the planting of native, pollinator- and bird-friendly plants as part of landscaping design and in green spaces"; and
- In support of its Master Plan, the City continues to develop and implement policies to support sustainability initiatives; and
- Sandy Springs citizens have and are establishing pollinator friendly habitats today in City parks and promoting awareness at community events;

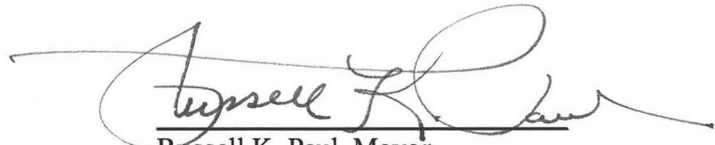
NOW, THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what citizens can do to sustain them, the City chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, and hereby resolves as follows:

1. The City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department is hereby designated as the City's BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The City of Sandy Springs Sustainability Manager is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
3. Facilitation of the City of Sandy Springs BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Sandy Springs Bee City Committee ("Committee"), an initiative of the nonprofit organization Environment Sandy Springs, Inc. Membership and operation of the Committee will follow the guidelines established by The Xerces Society, the BEE CITY USA parent organization.
4. The Committee is authorized to and shall:
 - a. Celebration: Host at least one (1) educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the City's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
 - b. Publicity and Information: Install and maintain at least one (1) authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City website which includes, at minimum:
 - i. a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website;
 - ii. contact information for the designated BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee;
 - iii. reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and
 - iv. the City's 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 the City's 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 a policy for incorporation in the City's Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
 - f. Plan Review: Review other relevant guiding 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.

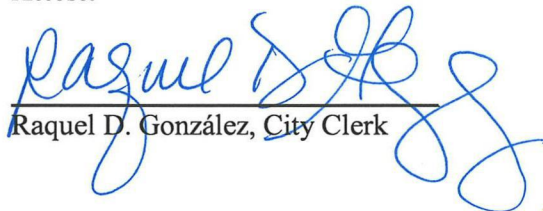
g. Designation Renewal: After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of the City's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City's population.

RESOLVED this 2nd day of March, 2021.

Approved:


Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Attest:


Raquel D. González, City Clerk

