

**City of East Lansing, Michigan**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EAST LANSING BEING A POLLINATOR COMMUNITY**

**August 11, 2020**

WHEREAS, pollinators of all kinds, including native bees, wasps, butterflies, European honey bees, hummingbirds and others are a critical part of our environment and our agricultural and food systems; their pollination is implicated in over 35% of global crop production and is extremely important to food production. Between \$235 and \$577 billion USD worth of annual global food production relies on direct contributions by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, many of the trees and plants that beautify our landscapes and form key elements of our ecosystems rely on pollinators to propagate and to contribute to provide ecological services; and

WHEREAS, the decline in the population of pollinators, including commercial European honeybees, wild bees, butterflies, and birds, as well as invertebrates in soil and water systems, is of serious concern; and

WHEREAS, the loss of habitat and food supply for pollinators through the use of pesticides, defined in this document as chemicals that may be used to kill fungus, bacteria, insects, plant diseases, snails, slugs, or weeds among others and includes those chemicals also referred to as insecticides and herbicides, resulting in habitat loss and other negative environmental impacts are contributing to this decline; and

WHEREAS, based on scientific studies and findings indicating that the inappropriate and unregulated use of pesticides pose unacceptable hazards to pollinators, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum regarding the protection of pollinators; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of neonicotinoids on all 150 million acres of its National Wildlife Refuge System; and several U.S. cities and counties have taken steps to raise awareness of this issue and some have instituted bans on the municipal use of neonicotinoids; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies indicate that some of the most widely used classes of pesticides may adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates and avian and aquatic organisms, contaminate water resources and soils, and translocate throughout all parts of plants contaminating the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, studies of insect pollinator health consistently show the primary driver of pollinator health is the presence and availability of flowers, so increasing pollinator habitat by planting more flowers and pollinator-friendly trees in cities can have a positive impact on improving bee diversity and abundance; and

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous and persistent pesticides is not absolutely necessary to create and maintain healthy landscapes, gardens, and open spaces when alternative practices and products are available; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing public concern regarding the use, misuse, and presence of toxic chemicals, and growing community concern and desire to protect and support pollinators to ensure robust food production and natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, June 22-June 28, 2020 is National Pollinator Week, and international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, butterflies, bats, and beetles; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Lansing acknowledges that it is committed to the continuous protection of our Community and our Community's precious natural resources:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Lansing City Council, at the recommendation of the Commission on the Environment, hereby supports the City of East Lansing's declaration as a pollinator friendly community:

- The City of East Lansing will continue to strive to minimize all chemical pesticide use on City property, and, where possible, will implement alternative practices to minimize impacts on the natural environment.
- The City of East Lansing will implement a comprehensive pesticide use policy that will be used across all departments, will specify when the use of pesticides may be considered and will provide guidance on such use. The policy will focus on eliminating the use of pesticides that are highly damaging to pollinators and their habitats.
- The City of East Lansing will continue to create and enhance safe and healthy pollinator forage habitat on City properties, including revision of mowing policies where possible to allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering species to flourish and feed pollinators, and to allow tree selection to include consideration of pollinator-friendly trees and native trees.
- The City of East Lansing will strive to purchase landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have not been pre-treated with systemic pesticides and will continue to seek grant funding for tree planting to help incorporate more native, pollinator-friendly trees on City property.
- The City of East Lansing recognizes the importance of pollinators, and will continue to support and actively engage in efforts to educate and provide resources to the community about integrated pest management, and the City will inform residents of the actions the City is taking on behalf of pollinator health.
- The City will encourage local businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and households to adopt pollinator-friendly policies and practices, and the City of East Lansing will continue to work collaboratively with local universities and other professional organizations to support pollinator health and research, implement best practices, encourage swarm recovery, and establish a baseline to monitor pollinator health.
- Staff will engage the Community by sharing information and celebrating the work we are doing to protect and conserve pollinators in the City of East Lansing and will renew this commitment yearly through the approval of City Council.

Moved by Council member:

Supported by Council member:

ADOPTED: Yeas:  
Nays:

Absent:

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Aaron Stephens, Mayor

Adopted:

CLERKS CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a public meeting held on August 11, 2020, the original of which is part of the Council's minutes.

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Jennifer Shuster, City Clerk

City of East Lansing

Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan