

RESOLUTION NO. 17-277

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of 90% of the world's wild plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, due in part to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought to the United States from Europe in the 1700s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, vegetables and even dairy products--one in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

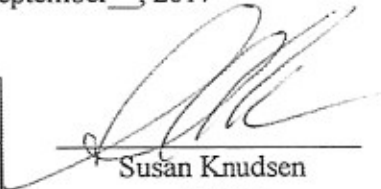
WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

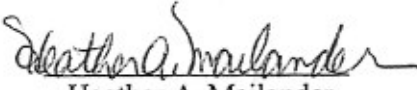
- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and,
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 3 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood, held this 13th day of September, 2017

	Moved	Second	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Hache	X		X			
Sedon		X	X			
Voigt			X			
Walsh			X			
Knudsen			X			



Susan Knudsen
Mayor



Heather A. Mailander
Village Manager/Village Clerk

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards, backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and nature-related organizations; and

WHEREAS, 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, the Village of Ridgewood New Jersey chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ridgewood New Jersey should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- Since 1925, clubs such as The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood have focused on the beautification of our village through gardens, native species plantings, and education. The Green Kids youth gardening program focuses on nature, pollinators, conservation and gardening. Additionally, the Women Gardeners maintain a butterfly/pollinator garden on village property, behind the Stable.
- Ridgewood's Wildscape Association passionately promotes the protection of village parklands, wildscape areas, and conservation sites, including Graydon Park, Grove Park, Dunham Trail, and its many other pollinator-friendly areas.
- The Conservancy for Ridgewood Public Lands is a not-for-profit group that provides opportunities for citizens to play an active role in restoring and enhancing Village park lands and open spaces. One of their current projects is to create a sensory pollinator garden that will allow people to utilize all of their senses via plants, and will include native plants that will provide nectar and pollen for pollinators.
- The Parks and Recreation department is dedicated to providing natural habitat for pollinators and educating residents on the importance of maintaining a green-minded environment. For the past 32 years, the Parks and Recreation department has overseen the Village Community Organic Garden, which promotes natural, organic gardening to residents.
- The Village of Ridgewood is home to many residential, backyard beekeepers. There are currently over one dozen backyard beekeepers throughout the village, many of whom share their passion for honeybees with their neighbors and other village residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Ridgewood New Jersey resolves as follows:

1. The Village of Ridgewood New Jersey Parks and Recreation Department is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation of the Village of Ridgewood is designated as the *BEE CITY USA* liaison.
3. Facilitation of the Village of Ridgewood *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association.
4. The Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association is authorized to, and should:
 - a. Celebration: 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 Village of Ridgewood's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.

- b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a link on the Village of Ridgewood's website to the Northeast NJ Beekeeper's website, www.nnjbees.org which includes, at minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national BEE CITY USA website, contact information for the local government's BEE CITY USA liaison (Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation), contact information for the "Northeast NJ Beekeepers Association," and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).
- c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Identification and inventory of Village of Ridgewood's real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
 - ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species.
 - iii. Creation of a least toxic integrated pesticide management plan, and
 - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public.
 - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage.
- d. **Policy:** Establish, through the Village of Ridgewood, a policy in the Parks and Recreation Annual Plan of the Village of Ridgewood's Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
- e. **Plan Review:** Review the Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management Plan and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.
- f. **Renewal:** After completing the first full year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the Village of Ridgewood'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 Village of Ridgewood's population.