

RESOLUTION 2015R-357

By Gordon and Palmisano

Declaring Minneapolis a pollinator-friendly community and encouraging residents and businesses to adopt pollinator-friendly practices.

Whereas, pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits; and

Whereas, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to an ongoing loss of habitat as a result of human land use practices, coupled with a simultaneous large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers, and farmers; and

Whereas, neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to bees and other pollinators; and

Whereas, local food production is needed to improve the health and food security of Minneapolis residents and insect pollination is an essential component of local food production; and

Whereas, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage while decreasing maintenance costs; and

Whereas, the monetary and social cost of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than the costs associated with maintaining chemically-treated monocrop landscapes; and

Whereas, the State of Minnesota preempted any powers of local governments to regulate any and all matters concerning the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides; and

Whereas, many Minneapolis residents and businesses are pledging to manage their land in a pollinator-friendly way;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community. The City celebrates current policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health including:

- The City of Minneapolis manages beehives on City Hall in cooperation with the Municipal Building Commission, Hennepin County, and the Mdewakanton Sioux community;

- The City of Minneapolis has recently adopted changes to the permitting processes that make it much easier to keep honeybees; and

- City departments currently use nearly no pesticides. The only pesticide use by a City-affiliated entity is limited, topical, and reactive use of certain classes of pesticide by the Convention Center.

Be It Further Resolved that the City commits to making the following improvements to City policy and practice to increase pollinator forage, including Minnesota native pollinator forage, and decrease pesticide use by the following City departments:

- The Public Works Department will pursue planting more pollinator forage in appropriate locations, including stormwater management ponds and large land areas that are currently turf grass, adopt clear guidelines against the use of pesticides and pesticide-treated plants, and consider pollinator-friendly amendments to the Minneapolis Vegetation Management Policy.

- The Community Planning and Economic Development Department will pilot planting pollinator forage on vacant land it controls and encourage private developers to incorporate pollinator-friendly plantings into required landscaping.

- The Property Services Division of the City Coordinator's Office will pursue planting more pollinator forage where appropriate on City facilities in cooperation with the business units in those City facilities. This includes a pilot already underway at four Minneapolis Fire Department facilities.

- The Health Department's Environmental Services Unit will maintain an internal resource for other City departments including a list of pollinator-friendly plants.

- The Minneapolis Convention Center will incorporate more pollinator forage into its plantings and phase out the use of systemic insecticides.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis urges all Minneapolis property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

- Committing to not use pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;

- Avoiding planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;

- Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides; and

- Planting more pollinator forage on their property and organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis will continue to advocate at the State and Federal level for increased authority to address the non-agricultural use of pesticides and for other pollinator-friendly policies.

The resolution was adopted August 21, 2015.