

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
RESOLUTION 2024-21

A RESOLUTION of Upper Providence Council designating **Upper Providence Township, DELAWARE COUNTY, PA** 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 a 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 honeybees, 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 habitat (A) is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; (B) is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; (C) comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

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

WHEREAS, Upper Providence Township, Delaware County should be a certified BEE CITY USA® community because the residents are deeply committed to enhancing pollinator habitats within our township and raising awareness in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, 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, **Upper Providence Township** chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The **Upper Providence Township Council** is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA® sponsor.
2. A **Member of the Township Council** is designated as the BEE CITY USA® Liaison.
3. Facilitation of **Upper Providence's** BEE CITY USA® program is assigned to the **Environmental Commission**.

4. The **Environmental Commission** is authorized to and shall:

- a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase **Upper Providence Township's** commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
- b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA® street sign in a prominent location. Additionally, task the Upper Providence Township staff with crafting a webpage on the Upper Providence website that, at a minimum, includes a copy of this resolution; a link to the national BEE CITY USA® website; contact details for the Township's BEE CITY USA® Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and your recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan.
- 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, identifying and inventorying **Upper Providence Township's** real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
- d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan aimed at preventing pest issues, minimizing pesticide usage, and promoting the utilization of non-chemical pest control techniques.
- e. **Policy & Plans:** Prepare a policy for officially recognizing and endorsing the BEE CITY USA® designation. Additionally, include provisions for reviewing and enhancing pest management policies and practices to support pollinator conservation efforts, identifying suitable locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and exploring other pertinent measures. This policy will be presented to the Council for consideration and adoption.
- f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of **Upper Providence'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 **Upper Providence Township's** population.

ADOPTED by **Upper Providence's Township Council, Delaware County, PA** this 14th day of May 2024.

UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

BY: Kimberly Fremont
Kimberly Fremont
Township Council Vice Chairperson

ATTEST: Mareile Watson
Mareile Watson
Township Interim Treasurer/Secretary