



27 and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support  
28 pollinator movement and resilience; and

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

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

37 **WHEREAS**, the White House released a Presidential Memorandum on June  
38 20, 2014, establishing a Pollinator Health Task Force, and one of the Task Force's  
39 goals is to increase and improve pollinator habitat; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the city council has passed multiple resolutions in support of  
41 the bee and other pollinators, including Resolution No. 20111110-068 to identify  
42 elements in City Code that may contribute to the decline of honeybees, Resolution  
43 20180628-071 to ban the use of certain chemicals that contribute to health dangers  
44 for humans, pets, wildlife, bees and other pollinators as part of the City's  
45 Integrated Pest Management program, and Resolution No. 20150514-004 to  
46 incorporate native milkweed into City-owned properties, preserve lands, parks, and  
47 open spaces in order to create critical habitats for pollinators such as monarch  
48 butterflies and bees; and

49 **WHEREAS**, a core principle of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is  
50 the integration of nature into the city, and Austin has demonstrated its commitment  
51 to that principle by striving to protect and enhance the city's natural resources

52 through National Wildlife Foundation initiatives such as the Community Wildlife  
53 Habitat official designation and the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge City; and

54 **WHEREAS**, over the past year, Parks and Recreation Department staff have  
55 joined with several local and national community groups, regional government  
56 partners, educational institutions, and dozens of volunteers to prepare Austin to  
57 receive the Bee City certification; and

58 **WHEREAS**, the extraordinary efforts of these stakeholder groups and  
59 volunteers, including Pollinate Austin, Travis County Balcones Canyonland  
60 Preserve, Texas Student Public Interest Research Group Campus Action, Bat  
61 Conservation International, Raise Design Studio, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
62 Service, Desert Door Texas Sotol, Wild Spirit Wild Places, and Me and the Bees  
63 Lemonade, provide the energy, expertise, and passion to protect pollinators and to  
64 make Austin a successful Bee City USA community; and

65 **WHEREAS**, Austin should be certified a Bee City USA community to  
66 enhance understanding of the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us  
67 can do to sustain them, and to encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and  
68 enhancement; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

69 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**  
70 **AUSTIN:**

71 The City Manager is directed to designate the appropriate City department as  
72 the Bee City USA sponsor to execute and oversee the following:

- 73 1. **Application and Application Fee:** Apply for designation as a Bee City  
74 USA affiliate and pay the required application fee; and
- 75 2. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat  
76 planting or restoration each year to showcase Austin’s commitment to

77 raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator  
78 health and habitat; and

- 79 3. **Publicity and Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized  
80 Bee City USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and  
81 maintain a web presence on the City of Austin’s website to include, but  
82 not be limited to, links to the adopted resolution and to the national Bee  
83 City USA website; contact information for Austin’s designated Bee City  
84 USA liaison and committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities  
85 that the community has accomplished in the previous year(s); and a  
86 recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management  
87 plan; and
- 88 4. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand  
89 pollinator-friendly habitat, including the cultivation of native milkweed  
90 where feasible in the City's landscape portfolio at Austin City Hall, City-  
91 owned buildings and properties, and the City's vast preserve lands, parks,  
92 and open spaces; and
- 93 5. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Update the City’s integrated  
94 pest management plan as needed to reduce pesticide use and expand the  
95 use of non-chemical pest management methods; and
- 96 6. **Policy and Plans:** Amend existing City planning documents, including  
97 but not limited to the Parks and Recreation Department’s Land  
98 Management and Long-Range Plans and the Austin Climate Equity Plan,  
99 make recommendations for plantings, improve practices, and consider  
100 other appropriate measures related to pollinator conservation; and

101 7. **Renewal:** Annually apply for renewal of the Bee City USA designation,  
102 including providing a report of the previous year’s activities and paying  
103 the annual renewal fee.

104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

105 The City Manager is directed to provide an update to council on whether  
106 these items are complete by June 15, 2022.

107  
108 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

109 Myrna Rios  
110 City Clerk  
111

DRAFT