



Royal Oak

Life Now Playing

Proclamation Resolving to Designate Royal Oak 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 percent of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with 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 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 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, Royal Oak should be certified a BEE CITY USA® community because Royal Oak has already been committed to supporting our pollinators through actions including:

- Picking up yard waste to make compost freely available to residents; and
- Installing rain gardens on public lands; and
- Encouraging residents to install rain gardens using instructions and tips on the city website; and
- Installing four beehives on public land; and
- Hosting an annual Earth Day celebration where native plants are sold, and information is distributed on supporting pollinators; and
- Promoting educational programs about climate change, pollinators, and composting at the library and through partnerships with the Royal Oak Nature Society; and
- Supporting a farmers' market where residents purchase food from local farmers to cut down on our use of fossil fuels in transport; and

- Partnering with Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority to provide a place for residents to drop off household hazardous waste and recycling, thereby keeping pesticides and waste products harmful to pollinators out of our environment; and

Now therefore, 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, Royal Oak chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Royal Oak Department of Public Services is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA® sponsor.
2. The director of the department of public services is designated as the BEE CITY USA® liaison.
3. Facilitation of Royal Oak's BEE CITY USA® program is assigned to the environmental advisory board.
4. The environmental advisory board, with support from the department of public services and the city manager's office, is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host or support at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Royal Oak's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
 - b. **Publicity and Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA® street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Royal Oak website which includes, at minimum a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA® website; contact information for your BEE CITY USA® liaison and environmental advisory board reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and a 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 Royal Oak'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:** Create and adopt an integrated pest management plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
 - e. **Policy and Plans:** Establish, an action the Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan to pursue native plant and biodiversity friendly certifications, including the BEE CITY USA® designation and review the sustainability and climate action plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest 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 calendar year as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Royal Oak'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 Royal Oak's population.

Adopted by the city commission of the city of Royal Oak, Michigan, this 11th day of April 2022.

