

Memo

To: Councilwoman Isabel Piedmont Smith

From: Shannon Gayk on behalf of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Bloomington Environmental Commission

Date: March 31, 2025

Subject: Bee City, USA Certification Initiative

Dear Councilwoman Piedmont Smith,

We are writing to explain why the Bloomington Environmental Commission is actively pursuing the Bee City, USA certification and how this aligns with our city's long commitment to environmental sustainability and community health.

1. Supporting Pollinator Health:

The primary goal of Bee City, USA certification is to recognize and promote cities that are dedicated to creating healthy habitats for pollinators, particularly bees, butterflies, and other essential insects. By achieving this certification, Bloomington will take an important step toward supporting the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystem and food production systems.

2. Enhancing Biodiversity:

Bloomington's commitment to sustainability and ecological stewardship is exemplified by the initiative to create more green spaces and promote biodiversity. As part of the certification, the Environmental Commission highlights these efforts to cultivate pollinator habitats, provide native plants, and reduce pesticide use. These actions help maintain and restore biodiversity across our community, which is crucial for ensuring resilient and thriving ecosystems.

3. Community Engagement and Education:

Bee City, USA certification will also serve as an opportunity to engage and educate Bloomington residents about the importance of pollinators. Through this initiative, we will host events and community activities to raise awareness about pollinator conservation. This aligns with our broader goal of fostering a culture of environmental stewardship in our city, where residents, schools, and local organizations can all contribute to the protection of pollinators.

4. National Recognition:

Achieving Bee City, USA certification would also place Bloomington among the growing number of cities nationwide committed to sustainable and pollinator-friendly practices.

This recognition would highlight our city's dedication to environmental preservation, helping to further position Bloomington as a leader in sustainability efforts.

We believe that pursuing this certification is a strategic and impactful step toward enhancing Bloomington's environmental reputation while creating tangible benefits for our residents, our wildlife, and our economy.

Thank you for your continued support of the Bloomington Environmental Commission's initiatives.

Sincerely,
Shannon Gayk

For the Bloomington Environmental Commission

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