

RESOLUTION NO. 19-56

RESOLUTION ENDORSING POLLINATOR PROTECTION AND  
PROMOTING POLLINATOR HABITAT

WHEREAS, pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects and wildlife species, are an indispensable component of a healthy and resilient ecosystem. Pollinators support Minnesota's economies, providing food for humans and wildlife and sustaining plants which improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion, and store carbon; and

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that pollinator populations are in rapid decline in the State of Minnesota, and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the decline is a result of multiple, interacting factors, including loss of food and habitat, pathogens and parasites, and the exposure to pesticides, including neonicotinoids; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids are a class of systemic chemical insecticides that have been shown to impair pollinators at low doses and kill them at higher doses; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota state law preempts municipalities' ability to regulate pesticides, but does not restrict a municipality's treatment of the land it manages; and

WHEREAS, Golden Valley citizens are concerned about the well-being of pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan includes goals, policies and implementation actions that protect and improve pollinator health, increase pollinator habitat, reduce the use of chemicals such as pesticides, and lower maintenance inputs and costs; and

WHEREAS, we find these actions to be in the public interest and demonstrates the City's commitment to a safe and healthy environment for people, pollinators, and other wildlife.

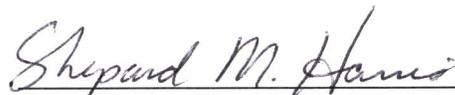
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Golden Valley that:

1. The City of Golden Valley is hereby declared a Pollinator Friendly Community.
2. The City celebrates its existing policies, practices, and actions that protect and promote pollinator health, including but not limited to:
  - a. Adopting a Natural Resources Management Plan and a Resilience and Sustainability Plan.
  - b. Protecting, enhancing, restoring, and creating new pollinator and wildlife habitat through the construction of public projects and private developments.
  - c. Creating a pollinator garden within a landscape island in the City Hall parking lot with educational signage.

- d. Managing an annual contract with a native vegetation company to monitor and maintain over 30 native vegetation buffer areas in the City utilizing an integrated plant management strategy which uses chemicals as a last resort.
  - e. Employing adaptive management strategies within City nature areas and open spaces including the removal of invasive species and planting more diverse and resilient native species.
  - f. Converting non-programmed spaces within City parks and golf course areas from high-maintenance turf to low-maintenance turf alternatives, and naturalizing shoreline areas along creeks and ponds.
  - g. Refraining from using insecticides containing neonicotinoids to treat City property.
  - h. Applying phosphorus-free fertilizer and herbicide on high-use turf areas (athletic fields, Brookview park, city campuses) on a limited, as-needed basis and utilizing technology to more efficiently and effectively target and apply product.
  - i. Staff overseeing chemical application are trained and certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and all products are applied according to state and federal law and label recommendations.
  - j. The City retains Hennepin County Sentencing to Service crews to perform tasks including weeding rain gardens, planters, and medians, and controlling buckthorn and other non-native plants within nature areas and open spaces, reducing the need for chemical treatment in these areas.
  - k. A significant amount of milkweed growing in public spaces and along rights-of-ways is retained and has been planted in planters, medians and along roadways.
  - l. Encouraging developers and contractors, through codes, permits, and development plan reviews, to plant more diverse native species and pollinator habitat.
  - m. Working with the City's Environmental Commission to provide education and awareness about pollinators, habitat, and sustainable yards and gardens via articles, social media, workshops, and other community events.
3. The City shall undertake its best efforts to promote healthy environments including food sources, clean water and habitat for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities, including:
- a. Increasing the amount of native vegetation cover and pollinator habitat throughout the City, including parks and open spaces, along streets, and in City campuses and parking lots.
  - b. Preserving and protecting natural areas and open spaces to maintain and attract pollinators and other desired wildlife species.
  - c. Reviewing its current land management practices with respect to pollinator health and habitat.
  - d. Continuing to reduce and better target the application of chemicals, such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides while providing high quality turf in its high-use areas.
  - e. Undertaking its best efforts to avoid application of chemicals in City parks and campuses when such spaces are in use by the public.

- f. Taking inventory of the chemicals used on City property and making that list available to the public.
  - g. Establishing land management standards and best management practices that lower inputs and cost and maximize resilience (i.e. utilize low maintenance turf alternatives, replace turfgrasses with native and resilient species wherever possible)
  - h. Undertaking its best efforts to purchase plants, directly or through contract, that have not been pre-treated with pesticides, specifically neonicotinoids.
  - i. Educating residents about the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator friendly habitat and encourage residents and businesses to use pollinator friendly practices.
  - j. Encouraging residents to participate in City volunteer programs that improve pollinator habitat and contribute to a safe environment.
  - k. Coordinate pollinator efforts with County, State, and Federal and other governmental agencies as appropriate.
4. The City may work with a non-profit or citizen group to help accomplish its goals involving education, awareness, and outreach, including hosting community events and workshops. When necessary to comply with the public purpose rule under Minnesota law, the City may require the non-profit organization or citizen group to enter into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with the City.
  5. The City shall post a copy of this resolution on the City website and provide information and a link to the website in the CityNews.
  6. The City shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Governor of Minnesota, State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate agencies.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2019.

  
Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kristine A Luedke, City Clerk