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**[Name of City] Becomes an Affiliate of Bee City USA**

CITY, State; [date]---[City’s City Council] unanimously voted on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to become a Bee City USA®, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. The [Council’s) action is the culmination of months of effort by [individuals or groups] to accomplish this affiliation.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with offices across the country. Bee City USA’s mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides. Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

The [Council’s/Commission’s) vote was made after a presentation by [Name] of [affiliation], to [Council/Commission] members.

[Mayor] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ said, “Our [City Council] let it be known that we understand the importance of sustaining pollinators, and want to make the city more pollinator friendly. We are grateful to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for bringing the opportunity to our attention.”

“We are thrilled that the [City Council] shared our vision for [City Name] to join the Bee City USA movement,” said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who played a leading role in the campaign.

According to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, during the process of applying for the affiliation, a number of organizations were brought into the discussions including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“The program aspires to make people more PC—pollinator conscious, that is,” said Scott Hoffman Black, Xerces’ executive director. “If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for many, many species of pollinators.”

“How each city completes the steps to conserve pollinators is up to them,” said Bee City USA Coordinator Molly Martin. “To maintain their affiliation, each affiliate is expected to report on their achievements and celebrate being a Bee City USA affiliate every year.”

Each affiliate should hold public awareness activities; publicly acknowledge the commitment to the program through a standing committee, signage and web links; and prepare an annual report on habitat enhancement activities.

Bee City USA especially encourages school gardens and educational programs for children.

The [City] has designated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the facilitating committee for [City’s] efforts to engage the community in promoting pollinator conservation. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ committee meets [date and time] at the [location] and invites all residents of [City] to offer their ideas for pollinator-friendly initiatives. The more people and organizations involved, the sooner pollinator declines will be reversed.

For more information about [City’s] Bee City USA program, contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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For more information about Bee City USA, visit <https://www.beecityusa.org/>

For more information about the Xerces Society, visit <https://xerces.org/>

For information about four simple ways to help pollinators, visit <https://xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/>