

About Bee City USA

Bee City USA is creating a nationwide network of hundreds of communities rallying to protect pollinators, with a focus on supporting native species. Each town or city (and a few counties!) makes a commitment to create habitat, reduce pesticide use, and educate the public, laid out in a resolution adopted by their local council. Collectively, Bee City communities have created thousands of acres of new habitat, protected pollinators from pesticides, and reached more than a million people with the message of caring for our planet.

Bee City USA is run by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, which provides information, materials, and advice. Each Bee City works independently and its projects are unique and reflect its own strengths, interests, and needs.

Who Can Become an Affiliate of Bee City USA?

Incorporated cities and towns and unincorporated counties can become certified affiliates of Bee City USA. Bee City USA's sister initiative, Bee Campus USA certifies colleges and universities. Learn more at beecityusa.org.

If you don't fit into one of these categories but would like to help native pollinators, you can still get involved by taking the Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators Pledge at bringbackthepollinators.org.



There are steps we can all take to make our garden, neighborhood, or hometown better for bees. By joining Bee City USA, you can unite your school to increase habitat, reduce pesticide use, and spread awareness—and become part of a nationwide movement to protect pollinators.

Thank you!

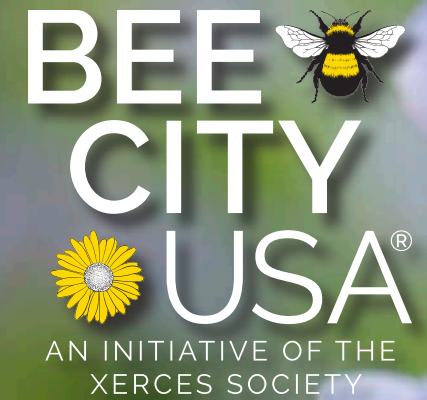
Get more information about becoming a certified Bee City USA affiliate at beecityusa.org

Contact us with questions about the application and certification process at beecityusa@xerces.org



Bee City USA® is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a donor-supported nonprofit that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Xerces works to build habitat, protect endangered species, and reduce pesticide use and impacts. Our success depends on your involvement. Take action today for your favorite invertebrates by making a tax-deductible donation at xerces.org/donate.

The Xerces Society is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Xerces® is a trademark registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



Bringing communities together to sustain pollinators



Why Protect Pollinators?

Bees are at the heart of a healthy environment. We can thank them for the reproduction of nearly 85% of all flowering plants, including crops that give us one in three bites of food we eat! Butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, wasps, ants, bats, hummingbirds, and more also pollinate, but bees are the most important pollinators.

It might seem that bees are everywhere, but many are in decline due to habitat loss, the use of harmful pesticides, disease, and climate change. We need pollinators, so we should do all we can to ensure that they have safe habitat.

Did You Know?

- There are more than 3,600 bee species in the United States.
- 90% of bees are solitary-nesting, meaning they do not live in a hive.
- 70% of bees nest in tunnels in the ground, with the rest occupying a hollow stem or similar space.
- Over 40% of native pollinator species are in decline worldwide, with some at risk of extinction.



Benefits to Your Community

- **Beautiful landscaping, resilient cities:** Flowering habitat enhances your community and supports the pollinators vital to the health of our world.
- **Help meet city sustainability & climate goals:** Native plants reduce water and chemical inputs and habitat helps lock up carbon.
- **Healthier neighborhoods:** Reducing harmful pesticides and adopting least-toxic ways to tackle home and garden pest problems makes neighborhoods safer.
- **Connect people to nature:** Increase love and support of the amazing diversity of plant and pollinator species in your community.
- **Healthier people:** Contact with nature improves emotional and mental health.
- **Stronger community:** Bring neighbors together around a positive, shared cause and connect with communities across the country that share the same vision.
- **Support local farmers:** Raise awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through increased pollination.
- **Grow small businesses:** Help local businesses including native plant nurseries, pollinator-friendly landscapers, and other bee-friendly businesses.
- **Mailed welcome package:** Get immediate access to free pollinator conservation and outreach resources.
- **Access to training opportunities & support:** Learn from Xerces' team of pollinator conservation experts.



Commitments

What does becoming a Bee City entail? First and foremost, Bee City affiliates make a commitment to make their community a better place for pollinators by creating habitat, reducing pesticides, and doing outreach. These are listed in a formal resolution approved by the city council. City staff and local volunteers work together to:

- Establish a Bee City USA committee to lead the pollinator-conservation efforts.
- Create and enhance pollinator habitat by planting native plants and reducing pesticide use.
- Add pollinator-friendly practices into city policies and plans.
- Host annual pollinator events.
- Publicly acknowledge Bee City USA affiliation with signs and an online presence.
- Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities.
- Pay an initial application fee and annual renewal fee.



Xerces staff support Bee City USA affiliates and provide information and guidance to help you meet these requirements.

Applications are accepted year-round. Learn more about the Bee City USA program, read answers to frequently asked questions, and find out how to apply at beecityusa.org.

