

# CITY OF HIGH POINT

## AGENDA ITEM



**Title:** City of High Point Becomes a Bee City USA – An Initiative of the Xerces Society

**From:** Robby Stone – Public Services Director  
Melinda King – Asst. Public Services Director

**Meeting Date:** April 17, 2023

**Public Hearing:** No

**Advertising Date:**  
**Advertised By:**

**Attachments:** Presentation

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**PURPOSE:** To re-approve a request for Keep High Point Beautiful (KHPB) to become an affiliate of Bee City USA. This item was previously approved by City Council at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, however, Bee City USA has required a modified resolution be submitted. No other changes have been requested or implemented for this re-submission. In order to become a Bee City USA affiliate, the Bee City USA application and a resolution must be submitted to the City of High Point Council and formal approval and adoption occur.

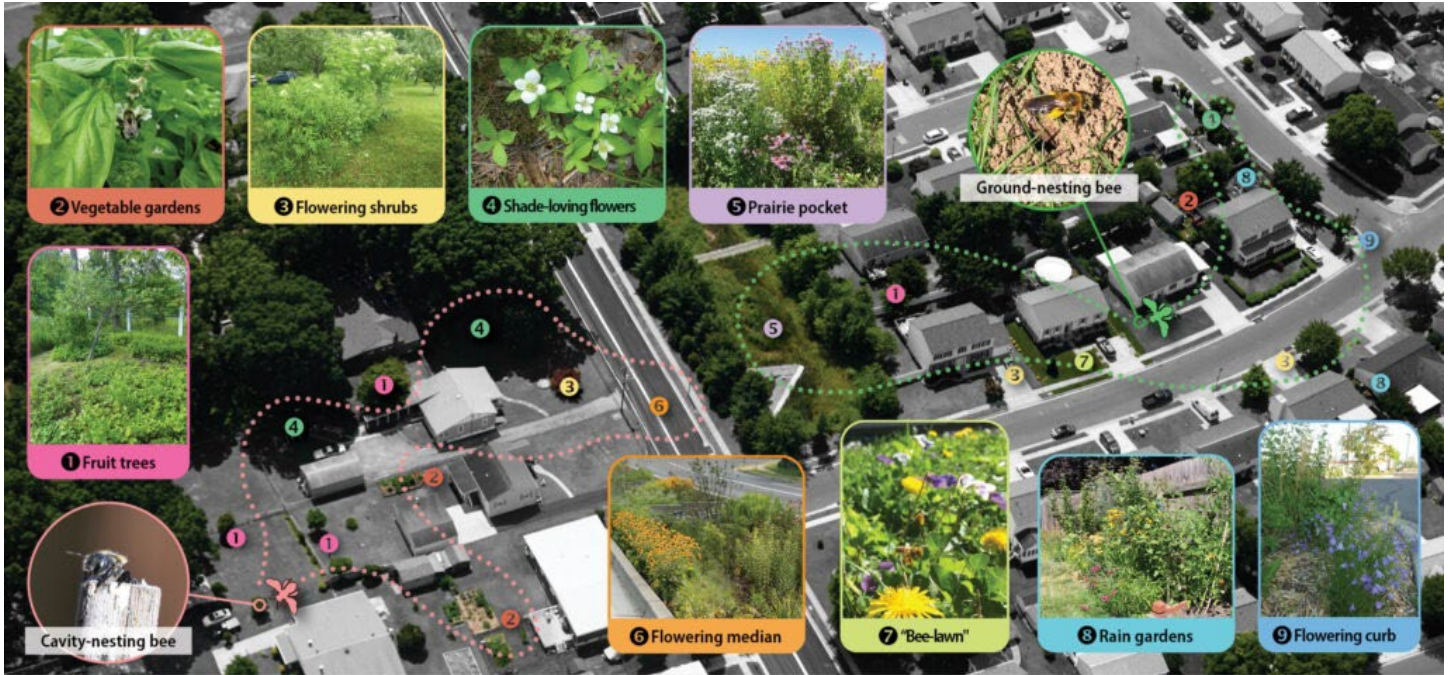
**BACKGROUND:** The United States is home to just over 3,600 native (wild) bee species such as bumble bees, leafcutter bees, sweat bees, mason bees, longhorn bees, and mining bees. Native pollinators are particularly important because they evolved alongside native plants and in many cases are the most effective pollinators — and in a few cases, the only pollinators. Pollinators are keystone species in essentially every terrestrial ecosystem on earth, assisting in plant reproduction and supporting other species of wildlife. Pollinators touch our lives in numerous ways each day, including “being” (no pun intended) responsible for approximately one third of the food and drink we consume. The value of crop pollination has been estimated between \$18 and \$27 billion annually in the U.S.

Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to come together to conserve native pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants, provides nest sites, and is protected from pesticides. As the name suggests, the focus of Bee City USA is bees, and primarily our native species. The steps that affiliates take to conserve our native bees, including creating safe habitats and hosting community events, will also help other pollinators including butterflies and moths as well as the non-native honey bee. One of the most impactful actions any affiliate can take is to encourage others to think beyond the honey bee and recognize the true diversity of bees that sustain our communities.

As the KHPB board celebrates their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it would like to continue to grow its impact throughout the community. KHPB can ensure survival of vital animal species, build community, improve local food production in coordination with non-profits, support small businesses, address pest problems with fewer pesticides and heighten awareness of biological diversity.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** Funding for this affiliation is currently available in the FY 2022-2023 Keep High Point Beautiful budget.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:** Public Services is recommending that Council approve the request to become an affiliate of Bee City USA for a total of \$500.



Bee City USA example