



WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEING A BEE CITY?

- By being a Bee City USA community, city leaders can improve their city or town's environment, eating habits, and economy.
- Help to ensure the survival of vital animal species crucial to our planet's complex food web.
- Raise community awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through expanded pollination. More than 150 food crops in the United States depend on pollinators, including blueberries, apples, squash, strawberries and almonds.
- Improve local plant nursery markets by increasing demand for native, pollinator friendly plants.
- Raise community awareness of the dangers of non-native invasive plants to the local ecosystem.
- Raise community awareness of the local environment's seasonality as understanding grows about the pollinators' reliance on blooming plants and trees.
- By encouraging urban beekeeping, increase micro and small business opportunities. Newly discovered pride in local food products, such as artisanal honey and other honey bee products, creates new business opportunities. Honey is absolutely unique to the nearby flowers from which the bees gather nectar. Its taste and color vary dramatically as a result. Furthermore, as the community of beekeepers grows, the market for beekeeping supplies grows.



WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS?

[Bee City Affiliates commit to:](#)

- Establish a standing Bee City USA committee to advocate for pollinators
- Create and enhance pollinator habitat on public and private land by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides
- Incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into city policies and plans
- Host pollinator awareness events
- Publicly acknowledge Bee City USA affiliation with signs and an online presence
- Pay an initial application fee and annual renewal fee
- Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities