

## RESOLUTION 12-18-31

### RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY OF LA CRESCENT A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO ADOPT POLLINATOR PROTECTION PRACTICES

**WHEREAS**, the City of La Crescent values its parks and open spaces, which contribute to La Crescent's quality of life and to La Crescent's Tourism Economy; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to an ongoing loss of habitat as a result of human land use practices, coupled with a simultaneous large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers, and farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to bees and other pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, local food production is needed to improve the health and food security of La Crescent residents and insect pollination is an essential component of local food production; and

**WHEREAS**, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage while decreasing maintenance costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the monetary and social cost of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than the costs associated with maintaining chemically -treated monocrop landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota preempted any powers of local governments to regulate any and all matters concerning the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides; and

**WHEREAS**, many La Crescent residents and businesses are pledging to manage their land in a pollinator-friendly way;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED** the city of La Crescent is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly community. The city celebrates policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health including:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee-Safe City by undertaking best management practices in the use of plantings and pesticides in all public places within the City.
2. The City shall refrain from the use of systemic pesticides on La Crescent City property including pesticides from the neonicotinoid family.
3. The City shall undertake its best efforts to plant flowers favorable to bees and other pollinators in the City's public spaces.
4. The City shall designate Bee-Safe areas in which future City plantings are free from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.
5. The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to La Crescent residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.
6. The City shall publish a Bee-Safe City Progress Report on an annual basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of La Crescent urges all La Crescent property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

1. Committing to not use pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;
2. Avoiding planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
3. Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides; and
4. Planting more pollinator forage on their property and organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.