

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS RESOLUTION NO. 24-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO, DESIGNATING THE COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS AS A BEE CITY USA AFFILIATE

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free, to nearly free, of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with the introduction of honeybees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat (a) is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; (b) is free, to nearly free, of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; (c) comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and (d) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a decision-making process for managing pests that uses monitoring to determine pest injury levels and primarily uses cultural, mechanical, physical, and biological tools to minimize health, environmental, and financial risks. The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, life histories, environmental requirements, and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. The method uses the least toxic synthetic pesticides only as a last resort to manage pests; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the Incorporated County of Los Alamos ("County") chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. County recognizes the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) as the host and facilitator organization for the Los Alamos Bee City USA program and the Los Alamos Bee City Committee (“Committee”).
2. PEEC is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
3. Kristen O’Hara, PEEC’s Director of Interpretation, is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.
4. County shall have a staff representative on the Committee.
5. The Committee is encouraged to accomplish the following:
 - a. Celebration: Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase County’s commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
 - b. Publicity and Information: Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on PEEC’s website which includes, at minimum, a copy of this Resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for the BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and the recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan (explained below).
 - c. Habitat: Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying County’s real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees; a list of local suppliers for those species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) the annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
 - d. Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management: Adhere to County’s IPM plan (Index #1330), which is designed to prevent pest problems and reduce pesticide use.
6. Renewal: After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of County’s BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of January 2024.

**COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED
COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS**

Council Chair

ATTEST:

**Naomi D. Maestas,
Los Alamos County Clerk**