



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: June 17, 2019

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

Agenda Title: Discussion only regarding the recent designation of Carson City, NV as a Bee City USA affiliate.

Staff Summary: In October 2018, a resolution was adopted to designate Carson City as a Bee City USA affiliate. This program serves to promote a healthy and sustainable habitat in order to support vital pollinator populations for the benefit of our health and economy. Adopting the Bee City USA designation has helped to promote educational opportunities that encourage citizens and department staff to make pollinator friendly choices for the benefit of our community.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Established in 2015, the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada are a grassroots group based out of the Carson City area that focus on promoting a healthy, sustainable habitat for bees and other pollinators by actively pursuing education of the public. In 2017, the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada contacted Mayor Crowell to pursue designating Carson City as the first Bee City USA affiliate in Nevada. On October 18, 2018, Carson City Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to designate Carson City, NV as a Bee City USA, making it #76 in the nation.

The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet. This program supports the creation of a healthy pollinator habitat by encouraging citizens to pursue cultural practices, such as planting native plants that will provide forage for a variety of pollinator species. Additional commitments include implementing best management practices for pollinators in the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department. Examples include: incorporating pollinator friendly plant species into restoration seed mixes, encouraging staff to use integrated pest management (IPM) strategies whenever possible (i.e. physical removal), as well as encouraging pollinator friendly plant choices when reviewing development proposals.

No fiscal impacts are anticipated from adopting these practices, and other non-fiscal resources can be provided to the public such as education on best practices. Additionally, in coordination with the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada, pollinator curriculum can be incorporated into the youth recreation programs. Adopting these practices in our community will ensure that pollinator populations are able to thrive in Carson City, ensuring healthy and abundant agricultural production and native landscapes. Participation in the program does not require a long-term commitment and continued participation in the program will be evaluated each year.