

State of Minnesota)
County of Ramsey) ss
City of North Oaks)

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1347

Endorsing Pollinator Protection and Promoting Pollinator Habitat

WHEREAS, pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other insects, are an indispensable component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing flowering plants with the pollination needed to grow fruits, vegetables, nuts, and herbs; and,

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that pollinator populations are in rapid decline in the State of Minnesota, and across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that the decline is a result of multiple, interacting factors, including loss of food and habitat, pathogens and parasites, climate change, and the increased use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids; and,

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids are a class of systemic chemical insecticides that have been shown to impair pollinators at low doses and kill them at higher doses; and,

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available that would significantly increase pollinator habitat and reduce maintenance costs; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota state law preempts municipalities' ability to regulate pesticides, but does not restrict a municipality's support of public and private efforts to protect and promote healthy pollinator habits including, without limitation, the North Oaks Homeowners' Association (NOHOA) and its sub associations, and collectively North Oaks property owners; and,

WHEREAS, many North Oaks residents, businesses, and private organizations are concerned about the well-being of pollinators; and,

WHEREAS, the North Oaks Home Owners' Association values the natural environment; its mission includes preserving and enhancing North Oaks through stewardship of its natural resources, and its vision includes being a place where people, history, and nature grow together.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of North Oaks:

The City of North Oaks is hereby declared a Pollinator Friendly Community. The City of North Oaks celebrates current policies and practices that protect and promote pollinator health. The City of North Oaks seeks to incorporate pollinator habitat with storm water management.



The City of North Oaks seeks to incorporate pollinator habitat with storm water management.

The Natural Resources Commission has implemented a Conservation Award Program that recognizes residents and organizations for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their property. One category of the award program is for best practices in pollinator conservation.

NOHOA, with the help of NOHOA volunteers, successfully converted approximately 2,000 square feet of association owned Lake Gilfillan shoreline into pollinator habitat.

NOHOA is developing a pollinator habitat on passive recreation property near the main entrance of North Oaks (approximately 33,000 square feet).

NOHOA's shoreline restoration projects emphasize the use of a wide variety of native pollinator-friendly plants.

NOHOA's pollinator habitats have the potential to serve as a seed source for other pollinator projects within the City of North Oaks.

NOHOA's buckthorn removal at the 3.4-acre Mary Hill Park has allowed flowering plants to once again flourish in the sunny areas of the site and more pollinator friendly plants will be added to the site over time.

With the exception of tick habitats, NOHOA tries to minimize the use of insecticides or herbicides on its properties and instead emphasizes landscape modification strategies for tick management such as more frequent mowing of its recreation land and trail systems.

The North Oaks Garden Club uses vendors who do not use neonicotinoids on their annuals, vegetables, and herbs sold at the Annual Plant Sale.

The North Oaks Garden Club distributes Mammoth sunflower seeds at their annual plant sale, encouraging residents to grow them, thereby providing food for pollinators.

The North Oaks Golf Club maintains native plants, including wildflowers, on their property, implements integrated pest management techniques when pests are encountered, and uses licensed pesticide applicators who are trained to reduce exposure to non-target species, specifically foraging bees. The North Oaks Golf Club is participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.



The Hill Farm Historical Society maintains a one-acre prairie on their six-acre site. The prairie is filled with native plants that serve as pollen and nectar sources for pollinators. In addition, they manage approximately 300 feet of shoreline on Pleasant Lake.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks shall undertake its best efforts to reverse pollinator decline by adopting new policies and practices that protect pollinators, including:

The City of North Oaks shall seek to clarify guidelines against the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and pesticide treated plants.

The City of North Oaks will prioritize nurseries that refrain from using neonicotinoids when purchasing plants.

When feasible, the City of North Oaks shall allow coarse woody debris to accumulate in open or natural, forested areas as a means of nesting and overwintering habitat for pollinators.

The City of North Oaks will encourage developers seeking permits to plant more pollinator forage where appropriate.

The City of North Oaks shall also encourage developers to incorporate pollinator friendly plantings into required landscaping.

The City of North Oaks shall manage for pollinators by selecting native plantings for any future stormwater management projects.

The City of North Oaks shall review and revise the current Integrated Pest Management Plan to better accomplish the goal of controlling pests with the least possible disruption to ecosystems.

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission and NOHOA shall support efforts to educate the broader community about the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator friendly habitat.

The City shall encourage the North Oaks Garden Club to continue to host an annual plant sale that offers a variety of pollinator friendly plantings, including native plants.

North Oaks will encourage the identification, protection and promotion of pollinator habitat projects.

The Natural Resources Commission shall provide periodic reports regarding the success of the agenda presented in this resolution.





CITY OF

NorthOaks

Building on a tradition of innovation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks urges all property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to assist pollinators by adopting practices including:

Committing to avoid using pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;
Avoid planting flowering plants that have been treated with systemic insecticides;
Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
Incorporating more pollinator forage into their property;
Refraining from treating lawns with pesticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of North Oaks transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Governor Tim Walz, State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will continue to advocate at the State and Federal level for pollinator friendly policies.

The City of North Oaks shall post a copy of this resolution on the City of North Oaks website and periodically post a Pollinator Friendly Activities Report on the website and in the North Oaks News.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL of the City of North Oaks this 11th day of July, 2019.

APPROVED:

Gregg Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Robertson
City Administrator



p 651-792-7750
f 651-792-7751



northoaks@cityofnorthoaks.com
www.cityofnorthoaks.com



100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230
North Oaks, MN 55127