



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: November 16, 2015

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ADMINISTRATOR: *SPK*

10-C

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution endorsing the protection of Pollinators and enhancement of Pollinator habitat

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Adopt Resolution 2015-181, which would declare the City of South St. Paul's intent to employ good faith efforts to protect Pollinators through the use of best management practices regarding plantings and pesticides in public places within the City.

OVERVIEW:

At the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on October 13, 2015, a group of seven individuals presented their concerns about the declining universal health of Pollinators and they asked for help from the City in addressing this concern. Bees and other Pollinator populations are sharply decreasing due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens and parasites. For example, recent research strongly suggests that there is a link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids and the die-off of plant pollinators including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects. The visitors asked for a City Council Resolution expressing commitment to preserving and improving pollinator health, habitat and other measures for preservation of Pollinator species, such as targeting plantings.

After discussion, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission asked Staff to draft a Resolution expressing support for protecting Pollinators, fostering the creation of Pollinator habitat, and communicating the importance of Pollinators to the residents of South St. Paul. Staff members Deb Griffith and Pat Dunn were also in attendance at the meeting because of their involvement with planting flowers, landscaping, and public space maintenance, which can include the use of pesticides.

The discussion led to the drafting of a Resolution that was reviewed at the November 10, 2015 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting. The Commission unanimously voted to forward the **attached Resolution** to the City Council for adoption. The Resolution does not generally include mandatory and prescriptive strategies except for refraining from the use of pesticides from the neonicotinoid family, where the damaging link between those pesticides and Pollinator health seems reasonably established. Staff will request that commercial applications of chemicals by contracted agents are free of systemic pesticides in the neonicotinoid family. The Resolution does also express a good faith commitment to considering the use of other strategies for protection of Pollinators on South St. Paul public spaces.

Resolution 2015-181 is attached for your review.

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

City of South St. Paul
Dakota County, Minnesota

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-181

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS AND
ENHANCEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT**

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has received feedback from concerned citizens regarding the promotion of a healthy natural environment through the reduction and elimination of harmful pesticides; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are integral to a wide diversity of essential foods including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, native bees and honey bees are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens and parasites; and

WHEREAS, recent research suggests that there is a link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids and the die-off of plant pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids are synthetic chemical insecticides that are similar in structure and action to nicotine, a naturally occurring plant compound; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of pest management practices in the maintenance of the city parks, open spaces and city property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a pollinator-friendly 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 South St. Paul city property including pesticides from the neonicotinoid family and will request commercial applications are free of systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.
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 undertake best efforts to communicate to South St. Paul residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.

Adopted this 16th day of November, 2015.

City Clerk