

FOR THE WOODLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAILY DEMOCRAT "INSIDER"

Woodland Becomes a "Bee City USA"

The Woodland City Council recently has voted unanimously to become a Bee City USA®. This designation complements the efforts of the City to celebrate its vibrant food and agriculture ecosystem through its Food Front initiative. The Bee City USA is an initiative of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a national nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with regional offices in thirteen states. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides. Imperiled pollinators like honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, moths, bats, hummingbirds, and others are responsible for the reproduction of ninety percent of the world's wild plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

Bee City USA founder, Phyllis Stiles, said, "The program aspires to make people more PC ("pollinator conscious," that is). If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for thousands of species of pollinators at risk. How each city or county celebrates pollinators is up to them, but we especially encourage educational programs for children, like school gardens. When a child falls in love with pollinators, they are friends for life."

The Woodland Chamber of Commerce encourages its members to promote and establish habitat for bees. To help organize efforts to promote pollinator conservation in the community a Bee City USA - Woodland Committee has been established. For technical information on how to establish bee and pollinator friendly habitat, email info@thefoodfront and/or the Haagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven at <https://beegarden.ucdavis.edu/>

The Bee City USA - Woodland committee meets the first Monday of the month at City Hall and invites all residents of Woodland to offer their ideas for pollinator-friendly initiatives. The more people and organizations involved, the sooner pollinator declines will be reversed.

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