

RESOLUTION 062821

POLLINATOR PROTECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with honey bee colonies experiencing significant annual losses, and with populations of native bees and other pollinators also in decline; and

WHEREAS, these declines are driven by a number of factors including habitat loss, pesticide exposure, lack of forage, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, populations of pollinators can be supported and enhanced by increasing native habitat that is protected from pesticide contamination; and

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food and are valued at \$20 to \$30 billion in agricultural production annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoids, the most widely used class of insecticides, is associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees that impair foraging patterns, navigating and learning behavior, alter reproductive cycles, and impair immune systems leading to increased susceptibility to pathogens and reduced colony survival; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that existing neonicotinoid contamination in the environment can adversely impact birds, aquatic organisms, and the ecosystems they support; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that many pesticides, including fungicides and herbicides, can also pose risks to already compromised bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides is often cosmetic and is not necessary to create and maintain landscapes, gardens or open spaces, given the availability of viable alternative practices and products; and

WHEREAS, integrated pest management is designed to manage pests by addressing the underlying sources of the pest problems, prioritizing non-chemical techniques, and adopt techniques that are least toxic to humans and the environment - strengthening efforts to protect pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE: The use of any neonicotinoid insecticides or other systemic insecticides that are highly toxic is hereby limited on all land owned or operated by Elm Grove.

Elm Grove will restrict its purchase of landscaping materials, including plants and seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids. Elm Grove will urge all government entities,

businesses, homeowners, and homeowner associations operating within Elm Grove to take steps to ensure limited use of plants, seeds, or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold, or used within our village.

Pest management on land owned or operated by Elm Grove will follow **integrated pest management** techniques. Pesticides will only be used on land owned or operated by Elm Grove when there is a justifiable need for the pesticide to be applied. A justified use is supported by evidence that a pest or disease outbreak exists or has strong potential to exist. Pest management on land owned or operated by Elm Grove will also limit cosmetic applications. Elm Grove will provide training on **integrated pest management** for employees who are responsible for pest management.

Elm Grove recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will support and actively engage in efforts to educate the broader community about the actions it is taking. Elm Grove will encourage other entities, businesses, schools, neighborhoods and households, and also the county, state and federal governments to adopt similar policies to support pollinators and avoid cosmetic pesticide use.

APPROVED this June 28th day of JUNE, 2021.

VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE



Neil H. Palmer, Village President



Michelle Luedtke, Village Clerk/Deputy Treasurer