

**Barrett F. Pedersen**  
*President*

**Irene Avitia**  
**Gil Hagerstrom**  
**John Johnson**  
*Trustees*



**April Arellano**  
*Clerk*

**Bill Ruhl**  
**Karen Special**  
**Andy Ybarra**  
*Trustees*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For more information:

Andy Smolen, Franklin Park Sustainability Manager, [asmolen@vofp.com](mailto:asmolen@vofp.com)

Laura Rost, Bee City USA Coordinator, [laura.rost@xerces.org](mailto:laura.rost@xerces.org)

---

### **Franklin Park Becomes An Affiliate of Bee City USA**

---

**Franklin Park, IL February 14, 2024** --- The Village of Franklin Park is pleased to announce that it has met the standards for certification as a Bee City USA® affiliate. In 2023, the Village Board unanimously voted to become a Bee City USA®, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. The Board's action is the culmination of months of effort to accomplish this affiliation.

Bee City USA® provides a framework for communities to come together to conserve native pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants, provides nest sites, and is protected from pesticides.

"We are happy that Franklin Park has been certified as a Bee City USA® affiliate," said Mayor Barrett Pedersen. "The Village Board believes it is important to think globally and act locally on issues that pertain to sustainability. We understand the importance of sustaining pollinators and want to make Franklin Park more pollinator friendly. As spring approaches, we encourage our residents to plant pesticide-free perennials to support a wide diversity of pollinators including honey bees, butterflies, and moths."

## MEDIA RELEASE (continued)

Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

Research has shown significant declines in native pollinator population sizes and ranges globally. In fact, up to 40% of pollinator species on earth may be at risk of extinction in the coming years because of habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate disruption.

“The program aspires to make people more pollinator conscious,” said Scott Hoffman Black, Xerces’ executive director. “If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for many, many species of pollinators.”

As a Bee City USA® affiliate, the Village will host events and forums designed to raise public awareness about preserving native pollinators and will publicize information to allow residents to become more involved in the effort to reverse pollinator declines.

Bee City USA® is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with offices across the country.

For more information about Bee City USA, visit <https://www.beecityusa.org/>

For more information about the Xerces Society, visit <https://xerces.org/>

For information about four simple ways to help pollinators, visit

<https://xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/>

###

---