

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03
VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE
Earth Day, Sustainability, and Pollinator Protection

WHEREAS, Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22 to raise awareness and inspire action for the protection of our environment; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Cottage Grove recognizes the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship for a healthy local ecosystem and community; and

WHEREAS, the Village is committed to taking steps—such as designating sustainability as a priority across multiple years during the annual prioritization process—that support the environment, including planting native species, reducing pesticide use, conserving resources, and encouraging community involvement in green initiatives; and

WHEREAS, pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other insects are essential to the reproduction of over 85% of flowering plants and critical to the success of agricultural crops and local biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 3,600 bee species in the United States and 400 in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the bee species in North America have experienced population declines, with one in four species at risk of extinction due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, portions of the Village of Cottage Grove contain high-potential zones for at least one bee species at risk of extinction—the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and greater demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, the Cottage Grove Village Board recognizes that urban landscapes provide habitat for pollinators, and wishes to encourage its citizens to play an active role in conserving pollinators through the management of their own land;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottage Grove Village Board commits to supporting and encouraging the creation and enhancement of healthy pollinator habitats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village affirms its commitment to pollinator-friendly practices, sustainable development, and long-term environmental health for current and future generations.

Adopted this 21st day of April 2025.

VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE

Cynthia Kelm-Nelson, Village President

Attest:

Lisa Kalata, Clerk