

Dear Commissioners and City Manager Fletcher,

In an effort to focus our efforts as a group and better help carryout the duties of the EAB, the board established 3 goals to address. I would like to discuss our first achievable priority which is to set-up city-wide urban super pollination stations and gardens.

Facts-

- One out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles and other insects.
- About 75% of flowering plants need to be pollinated so they can reproduce. (This includes 35% of the crops we eat)
- More than 1300 types of plants that are utilized for spices, and medicine require pollination.
- Pollinators contribute more than \$24 billion to the American economy, \$15 billion from honeybees alone.
- Scientists attribute several causes to Florida's declining bee population including: habitat loss, global warming, parasites and most damaging rampant use of insecticides known as neonics (neonicotinoids).

The EAB would like to recommend placing "super pollination stations" at every city park and then around every city owned building. These locations would also include all fire stations, utility management sites and eventually public easements on the major roadways. If given approval from all commissioners, we would like to possibly meet with the head of Parks and Recreation and the City Arborist for collaboration.

The Citizens of North Port and several Conservancy groups have already discussed completing a community project of this nature and have developed a prototype for the first garden. We have a list of local community organizations who have volunteered to help maintain and care for each garden. The plan is to utilize low maintenance native pollinating plants. There is also a community sponsor willing to donate the cost of plants and materials for the first garden. We can provide the plan and prototype in a future email to come. We would like to utilize monies

collected from the tree fund to initiate the start costs at future super pollinator locations.

In conclusion, super pollination stations will help preserve our habitat, help restore pollinator populations, and will be beautiful aesthetically pleasing additions to our communities. These projects will also showcase that the City of North Port is a community of action, who cares about our environment and is looking to help our future generations protect the environment. Please help our city and our environment by honoring our recommendations.

Thank you for your time,

Erin Hall

EAB member