



**LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.**

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June 21, 2021

Akron City Council

Akron, Ohio

**FOR the Resolution recognizing National Pollinator Week and the environmental work of Councilman Rich Swirsky**

National Pollinator Week increases the awareness of the value of pollinators to a balanced ecosystem and to pollinators' contribution to one in every three bites of our food. However, over the past 25 years, many species of bees and other pollinators have experienced large decreases in population. Among the causes:

- Fewer places to feed and breed.
- Imported species and diseases.
- Broad use of Pesticides.
- And, Climate change.

In recent decades, the numbers of North American monarchs have plummeted. Both the eastern population and the western population are down. From 1996 to 2020, the eastern monarch population dropped 88 percent, from an estimated 383 million to just under 45 million.

Since the 1980s, the western overwintering population of Monarchs has dropped more than 99 percent, from 4.5 million to 1,914 monarchs.

LEAD for Pollinators encourages individuals, businesses, and government to implement some simple actions suggested by The US Fish and Wildlife Service to support National Pollinator Week, and to support pollinators year round.

**Plant a Pollinator Garden and provide pollinator nesting habitat** in your yard, university or corporate campus, and city parks. Your local Soil and Water Conservation District, University Extension, and pollinator advocacy nonprofits have guides to show you how and what to plant to support pollinators.

*Our mission is to provide leadership, education, action, and development to support the health and sustainability of honey bees, native pollinators, and the keepers of the ecosystem.*

*LEAD for Pollinators is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.*

**Avoid or Limit Pesticide Use.** Grow organically to encourage native pest predators. Protect our streams, rivers, and lakes from pesticide drift and run-off by reducing or eliminating pesticide use on your property.

Pollinators and pollinator habitat in cities supports biodiversity. Pollinator habitat reduces the heat island effect in cities, improves air quality, absorbs standing water thus reducing storm water run-off and reduces mosquito habitat.

Councilman Rich Swirsky worked for a better environment for Akron residents. Recognizing his work as part of National Pollinator Week honors his memory. LEAD for Pollinators is in support of this Resolution.

Formally,

Michele Colopy, Executive Director  
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