

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2016-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT, KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES.

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids, one of the most widely used classes of insecticides, are systemic, persistent neurotoxins that translocate throughout all parts of plants, including leaves, guttation fluids pollen and nectar; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that neonicotinoids can adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates, avian and aquatic organisms, contaminate water resources and soils, and contaminate the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that neonicotinoids are endangering pollinators through acute poisonings as well as through chronic sublethal exposures, which can weaken immune defenses, causing increased susceptibility to natural stressors such as parasites, pathogens (bacterial, viral and fungal diseases), and poor nutrition due to habitat loss and industrial agricultural systems, and studies have shown other adverse effects associated with neonicotinoids, including delays in larval development, decreases in queen survival and negative effects on feeding, navigational and reproductive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with commercial honeybee colonies experiencing as much as 50 percent over-winter losses each year since 2006, and with a dramatic decline in populations of wild bees, butterflies, birds and other pollinators, as well as invertebrates in soil and water systems; and

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honeybees 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, municipal, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid on home gardens, public parks, school grounds and other local and municipal areas pose unacceptable risks to bees, other pollinators and aquatic invertebrates, and furthermore their introduction into the environment is often unintentional and/or inadvertent, since labeling is not required for treated nursery materials; and

WHEREAS, this same municipal, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid on home gardens, public parks, school grounds and other local and municipal areas may pose health risks to human residents; and

WHEREAS, use of systemic neonicotinoids, is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes, home and public gardens and open spaces, given the availability of viable alternative practices and products; and

WHEREAS, responding to scientific studies and finding that neonicotinoids pose unacceptable hazards to pollinators, the European Union in 2013 instituted a two-year moratorium on some uses of neonicotinoids, while US cities and counties, including Eugene, OR, Thurston County, Spokane and Seattle, WA, Shorewood and St. Louis Park, MN and Portland and Eugene, OR have instituted resolutions and/or bans against municipal use of neonicotinoids, while the US Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of neonicotinoids on all 150 million acres of its National Wildlife Refuge System; and

WHEREAS, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, Bainbridge Island School District, Kitsap Regional Library – Bainbridge Island Branch, Kitsap Conservation District along with ten local organizations have pledged support for the Pollinator Improvement Project, and


WHEREAS, two local garden retailers in the City of Bainbridge Island currently offer pollinator friendly garden products, ranging from organic pesticides and fertilizers to neonicotinoid-free plants and landscaping materials, and one national retailer has pledged to label pollinator friendly products;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, Kitsap County, Washington, that

1. That the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District will not apply neonicotinoid-active ingredients for any purpose on District parks, playing fields, along watersheds and ditches, open space lands, public trees and landscapes or in its buildings or other areas under its ownership and jurisdiction, with exceptions only being allowed under the District's IPM policy.
2. That the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District will seek to purchase landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have not been treated with neonicotinoids.
3. That the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, in recognition of the precautionary principle, hereby urges all related parties, both public and private, at the county, state and federal levels to suspend neonicotinoids for use in seed treatment, soil application or foliar treatment on plants, trees and cereals in urban and agricultural settings, unless a thorough scientific, legal and regulatory review of their impacts on honeybees, other pollinators, natural enemies and non-target organisms, which includes the full body of peer-reviewed literature, is completed and a public health and environmental assessment can prove their safety.
4. That the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will make efforts to educate the broader community about the actions it is taking; and, furthermore, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District encourages other entities, businesses, schools, neighborhoods and households, and also the county, state and the federal governments to adopt similar policies.


PASSED by the Board of Commissioners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, Kitsap County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof held this 21st day of April, 2016, the undersigned commissioners being present.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT


BY: 

John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: _____
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 

Lee Cross

BY: 

Kirk B. Robinson

ATTEST: _____
Jay C. Kinney -- Secretary