

## **RESOLUTION**

### **EXPRESSING INTENT FOR THE CITY OF CHARLOTTEVILLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville has long-standing commitments to environmental sustainability and community health and wellness, and City Council's Strategic Plan Vision is "To be a place where everyone thrives," including Strategic Outcome Areas focused on Climate Action, Recreation, Arts, and Culture, and Partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has already incorporated biophilic principles in a number of major policy documents and programs including the Comprehensive Plan, the Rivanna River Corridor Plan, the Climate Action Plan, the Development Code, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Urban Forest Management Plan, and the Water Resources Protection Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlottesville has a rich and varied diversity of ecosystems that provide benefits to residents, workers, businesses, visitors and the diverse species we share our city and our region with; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence demonstrates that people are happiest, emotionally and physically healthiest, and most productive when working and living in close proximity to nature; and

**WHEREAS**, research suggests that exposure to nature can reduce stress, aid recovery from illness, enhance cognitive skills, improve academic performance, and aid in combatting childhood and adult illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, in an increasingly urbanized world, it is incumbent upon cities to provide vital natural habitat to plant and animal species that may otherwise perish; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of "biophilia" refers to the innate connection of humans to the natural world, and therefore "biophilic cities" are those that purposefully design, build, and manage their communities with abundant nature ensuring its residents have opportunities for deep, meaningful connection and engagement with the natural world as part of their daily life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biophilic Cities Network is a community of biophilic cities from around the world whose leaders recognize the important connection between humans and the natural world and strive to place nature at the core of design and planning and work to create abundant opportunities to learn about and connect with nature; and

**WHEREAS**, a commitment to becoming a Biophilic City will support Charlottesville's environmental sustainability and community health and wellness goals;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that we support the principles of the Biophilic Cities Network and commit to collaborating with other participating municipalities, institutions, and organizations to support urban biodiversity and create opportunities for all Charlottesville residents to connect with nature.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City staff are hereby authorized to submit an application for Charlottesville to join the Biophilic Cities Network.