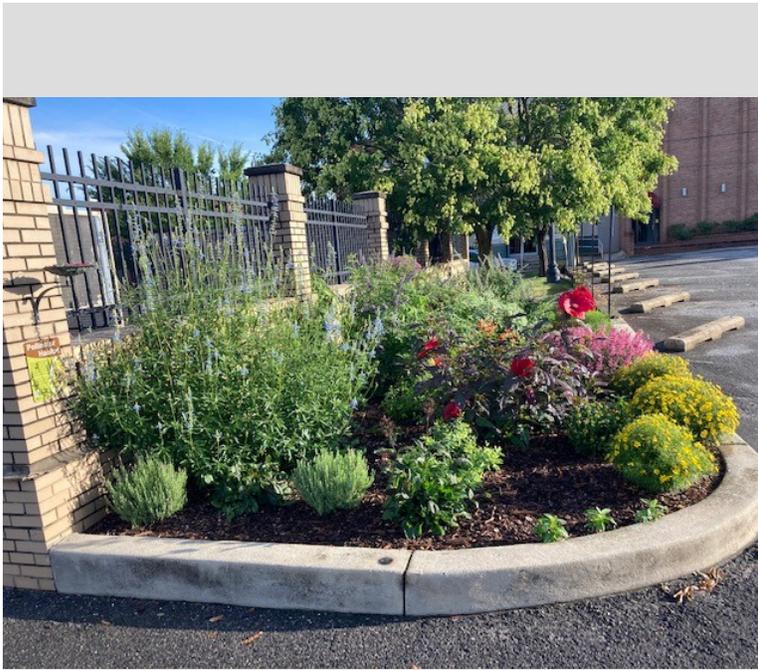


Bee City USA - Gastonia

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

One new habitat was created outside of our office in a space that was 324 square feet. This was placed in a location that had no curb appeal and really brought life to that area. The City Horticulturist is extremely passionate and dedicated to enhancing other locations throughout our downtown with pollinator friendly plantings. Locations created last year were maintained and flourished as staff had more time during the pandemic to give attention to plantings.



Flourishing pollinator garden planted in municipal parking lot area has drawn lots of attention.



Growing Gastonia's pollinator beds one bed at a time!

Education & Outreach

Keep Gastonia Beautiful staff kicked off pollinator week with an informational session about all things bees to a local Rotary Club. - 40 Rotarians were present and asked really awesome questions about bees. Virtual Beetopia was publicized



on Facebook and all videos were uploaded to our YouTube Channel. 8 posts were created during Pollinator Week and reached over 5,230 people all together. The Schiele Museum of Natural History, with help from the Beekeepers of Gaston County, established a new apiary with 4 hives on their "farm" in 2020. They held a number of informal programs over the summer with varied attendance. They had 18 programs with a total of 231 participants. Due to COVID the museum was offering many free educational experiences to the public so it's probably safe to say that these numbers are an estimation and the actual attendance likely exceeds this. A virtual video was created with the Beekeepers as a promo to welcome the bees and feature the newly renovated farm exhibit at the museum. The Beekeepers of Gaston County really helped us throughout the year hosting the following: 76 bee school students 10 week bee school Saturday bee school fall bee school refresher class and testing virtual event Schiele museum bug's life week maintained apiaries at community rotary garden numerous zoom presentations to other county bee groups gave hands-on training sessions for new beekeepers formed new 4-H groups for beekeepers 5-18yrs of age established 2 hives for 4-H group hosted two bee pickup dates for members and bee students Two murals were created in 2020 with the theme "Flourish" a 3-part mega mural spanning 4,000 square feet and is the largest in the region. The bright yellow bugs included in the mural are all pollinators. According to the artist Bree Stallings, "they move pollen and seeds from one place to another, as as Gaston County moves from one era into another, we will need to lean on and task ourselves to be pollinators of ideas, support, culture and change."



Bee City Chair, Merryman Cassel reading a book with our mascot Miss Polly Nator for our virtual Beetopia 2020



Keep Gastonia Beautiful Administrator, Juliann Lehman presenting to a local Rotary Club to kick off Pollinator Week.



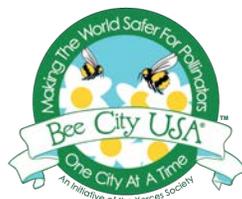
MISS POLLY NATOR WENT TO VISIT HER COUSINS TO SEE WHAT THE BUZZ WAS ABOUT AT THE SCHIELE MUSEUM.



Miss Polly Nator went to the Schiele Museum to check out the new hives they received.

Policies & Practices

Hand weeding in all designated pollinator habitats and whenever possible in other planted areas. The use of observational scouting for pests and disease, use of organic control measures on initial pest/disease observations, and higher standard of



disease tolerance when beneficial insects are observed. The soil is top dressed with cow manure to reduce synthetic fertilizers. Organic pelletized chicken/cow manure is used as well. Staff tending to the beds, attend continuing education classes where IPM is a top priority.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More

<https://www.cityofgastonia.com/bee-city-usa.html>
juliannL@cityofgastonia.com

<https://www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful>
https://www.instagram.com/kgb_nc/





Due to the pandemic, we have not met in person, but here is a picture of Burton Beasley, Gaston County Beekeepers Association President and Bee City Committee member. We videoed him as part of our virtual Beetopia.

