

Bee City USA - Raleigh

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In addition, in 2020, we did invasive removal at 28 Park sites and restoration efforts at 5. Most of our greenways have been mapped for invasive plant species and control efforts are ongoing along ~80 miles of trail. We also utilized partnerships with the Conservation Fund, Water Resources Research Institute and Partners for Environmental Justice to hire American Conservation Experience for 5 weeks in Feb-Mar for invasive removal and restoration at Walnut Creek Wetland Park, installing over 1000 native plants, grasses and trees. We also installed a 2900 sq. storm water control at the Raleigh Rose Garden last fall and planted it with hundreds of native pollinator plants that we grew at our greenhouse. Additional pollinator habitats that installation at park sites include:

- Brookhaven Park installed a 1240 sq. pollinator bed.
- Lake Lynn installed a 3047 sq. pollinator bed. A 2000 sq. bed and planted the seed of our native sunflower *Helianthus angustifolia* was installed in the grove at Dix Park and we look forward to seeing thousands of flowers this fall.

The City of Raleigh has joined up with the Monarch Watch Program and have registered 23 City of Raleigh Park locations as Monarch Way Stations. We are growing hundreds of milkweed plants from seed. <https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/> Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation Program Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to mountains in central Mexico where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. www.monarchwatch.org The Housing and Neighborhoods Department, through their Neighborhood Improvement Funds, continues to offer funding for small grants, which may be used for community gardens, urban agriculture and pollinator habitats. The Office of Sustainability partnered with Housing & Neighborhoods to put together educational materials to help guide potential applicants on pollinator and urban agriculture friendly projects. We are hopeful that we will be able to include more community activities in our 2021 BeeCity report.





Field of Flowers

Education & Outreach

The Environmental Advisory Board continues to support this initiative in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. A number of local activities took place in 2020. Due to the pandemic, Raleigh cancelled its 50th Anniversary Earth Day event, which was scheduled for April 2020. Because of this cancellation, City departments collaborated to post online activities and learning events for children, teams, and adults. These included guides for home gardening and planting for pollinators, guides to remove invasive plant species on private properties, bug coloring books



and activities for children, as well as links to external resources hosted by the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and iNaturalist, among others. The 2020 pollinator activities were virtual with a number of resources provided on the city website. Pollinator Week was celebrated June 22-28, and numerous community groups hosted pollinator friendly events or virtual events. Some of the activities occurred through Raleigh City Farm, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and through updated information on the city website, such as the Wildlife and Pollinator page. The Parks and Recreation department has created a coloring book that is available to download off the city website. The hives continue buzzing at the Convention Center. The Convention Center is also incorporating more local food into their operation, which supports the work of all of our local pollinator habitats in our local food system.



Sidewalk Mural

Policies & Practices

Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) Department is in the process of implementing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for the Parks Maintenance Division to complement its Parks Pesticide Policy. The pesticide policy serves as a guiding document for IPM in the PRCR Department. As part of the IPM implementation, PRCR provides IPM education to staff at its monthly gardeners' meetings. These workshops include proper pest identification, weed identification, thresholds, and invasive control methods. The IPM Leadership Team meets regularly to evaluate, update and refine herbicide use. PRCR promotes "freedom lawns," low-maintenance open areas where plants can bloom



without mowing. The Department has also piloted projects using torches, organic herbicides, prescribed burning, and smothering weeds with cardboard-newspaper mulch. As for chemical pest control, the PRCR Department does not use herbicides in natural area parks except for invasive plant control, and in some parks herbicide use has been eliminated altogether. No restricted use herbicides are ever applied in Raleigh City Parks. No insecticides are used on any plant material in City Parks. The city is currently investigating the elimination of herbicides on greenway trail edges. PRCR promotes planting native plants in City parks. All new plant designs are judiciously reviewed, and invasive species are not allowed. All new plantings are approved by the Parks Horticulturist, Park Superintendent, and Assistant Parks Director before being implemented in a park. This process is designed to promote native plants, educate staff and to understand any potential restrictions or setbacks.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

[Learn More](#)

