

Bee City USA - Cape Carteret

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

During spring 2021 and into early summer, we created a vegetable, fruit, and flowering garden at Town Hall in our park. Planted in the garden were a variety of melons, sunflowers, beans, tomatoes, corn, and flowering perennials where we observed visitation from a large and varied number of pollinators, birds, and wildlife. The garden bloomed well into the fall and was visited by a variety of bees and butterflies both native to the area and some just passing through. We also created a pollinator garden area in an unutilized bed near an entry way to Town Hall. This endeavor was undertaken during the fall, we used mums that were blooming at the time of planting to prolong visits by pollinators overwintering. The bed will grow into a more substantial pollinator garden as spring 2022 approaches with the addition of a watering station and a variety of plant material. Town staff also used large containers to provide container gardens with flowering plant material, they in turn attracted pollinators traveling through our area. Town staff also planted seven rose bushes in a corner of the town park. The roses offered passing pollinators the opportunity to gather pollen from a wider variety of plant material. The proximity of our large park behind Town Hall full of dandelions and chickweed, affords us the opportunity to see many varied species of birds, insects, and other wildlife. The community park is surrounded by flowering trees which is most inviting to wildlife. With the installation of a kayak launch within a wooded area that provides a natural resting place for migrating birds and insects. Wildlife is abundant to include beavers, otters, deer, woodcocks, squirrels, birds and a wide variety of insects and pollinators. We plan to add milkweed to this area to attract Monarch butterflies as they traverse the area in their migration patterns to more Northerly or Southerly climes.





vegetable, fruit, and perennial garden - Cape Carteret Community Park



Container gardens with drought tolerant plants that bloomed throughout the hot months.



Pettiford Creek Kayak Launch Park this is a throughway for Monarch butterflies and other pollinator species where we will be planting Milkweed and other native pollinator friendly plant material.

Education & Outreach

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our activities were limited. We expanded our pollinator garden in the community park, and around our office. The maintenance and installation of a self-timer for watering and watering cans for our container gardens was overseen by office staff. Town office staff installed a rose garden in a corner of the community park as well as mums in a small unused bed. Spring of 2022 we intend to plant Milkweed seeds at our newly opened Pettiford Creek Kayak Launch along with native flowering varieties of perennial plant material to attract pollinators to include Monarch butterflies as they make their migration in and around our area. The kayak launch site is home to a variety of wildlife, insects, pollinators, flora, and fauna. We held three Garden of the Season events in conjunction with the Cape Carteret Garden Club. The winners were judged on a variety of criteria set forth by the garden club members and scored accordingly to arrive at a winner for each season. Town staff visited each entry with the garden club and filmed for our Facebook page. The Garden of the Season event proved to be successful with more entries for each season as the year progressed. The contest will continue each year to increase awareness to our residents that we are a Bee City.



Policies & Practices

Our pollinator friendly pest management plan has our Public Works Department using Eco-friendly herbicides. When the crew is working in the area of our pollinator gardens and container gardens, we hand pull weeds. We do not use pesticides within pollinator habitat areas. We incorporate planting companion plants that naturally repel certain insects from other plants for instance using lemon grass and citronella. In areas where pesticides/herbicides are used, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are followed as required by licensed applicators. Other areas in town have ditches that do require treatment for pests like mosquito larvae which can produce deadly strains of mosquito borne illnesses for our residents. We combat the ditches that retain water with mosquito dunks that do not harm wildlife but kill mosquito larvae. We instruct residents to make sure to dump out standing water in their yards as to minimize the problem with mosquitoes. The county in which we reside does spray for mosquitoes with trucks in areas throughout the county, however, the Town of Cape Carteret has been removed from the spray list so as to not be a detriment to our endeavors to protect our pollinators.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:





[Learn More](#)



photo taken at our Fall Festival with a few of the Bee City Committee members

