

Bee City USA - Tyler

Report on 2021

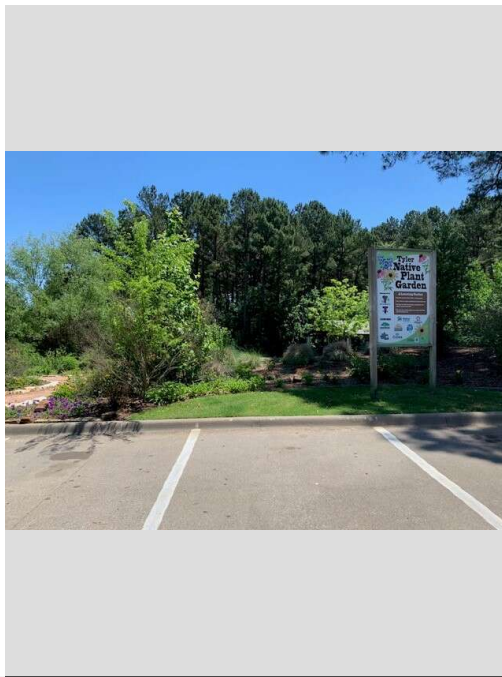
Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Tyler's Bee City USA Committee and the East Texas Beekeepers Association (ETBA) partnered up to build a Bee Observatory at the Rose Garden in Tyler. The Rose Garden is managed by the Parks and Rec Department for the City of Tyler. COVID-19 restrictions pushed the starting date of the construction to August. With the financial support of Keep Tyler Beautiful, five volunteers worked under the summer heat to build the structure. The volunteers were led by a boy scout from Boys Scouts of East Texas, Bradley Moore. The construction included the platform, roof, and the steps where the actual beehive box will sit on. The construction pushed the time frame to transfer bees into the observatory to the Spring of 2021. The structure is now complete, and we are in the process of hosting a beehive with the help of the ETBA. The plan is to utilize the Bee Observatory as an educational tool during Bee City USA events and school activities at the Rose Garden. ETBA has promised help with the maintenance and upkeep of the bees at the Bee Observatory. In the Fall of 2021, we had about 10 volunteers help with the maintenance of the Native Plant Garden located near Woldert Park. The garden is a breeding ground to all types of native plants and pollinators. During the summer months, the garden is used as an educational tool for the City's summer school programs. The summer program attendees, mainly students from the ages of six through 13, learn about pollinators and receive hands-on education on how to plant a vegetable and fruit garden in the Native Plant Garden. The City of Tyler, with the help of Smith County Master Gardeners, also keeps a flourishing pollinator garden called the IDEA Garden, or also known as Tyler Botanical Garden, located in the Rose Garden. The 10,000 square foot garden is home to various plant species native to East Texas and hundreds of buzzing pollinators buzzing. Each year the Tyler Trees Committee plants native trees at City of Tyler parks and public schools. This helps our native pollinators flourish in natural spaces. In addition, many of the medians inside the have been converted to pollinator friendly green spaces with native wildflower mixes planted in the fall.

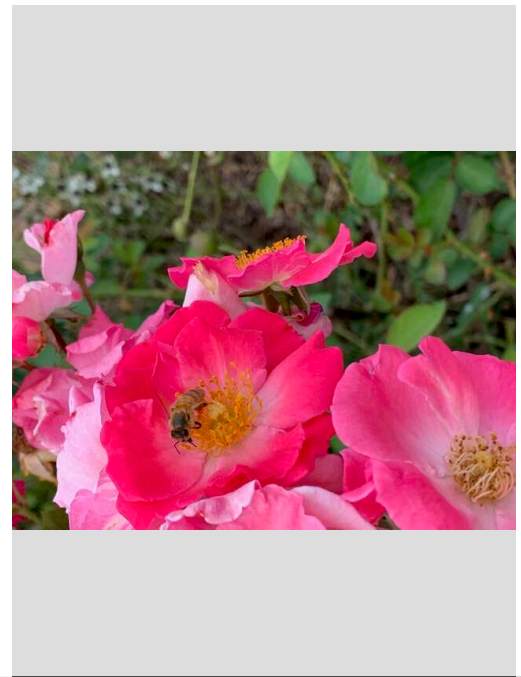




The Honeybee Observation Hive at the Rose Garden



The Native Plant Garden at Woldert Park



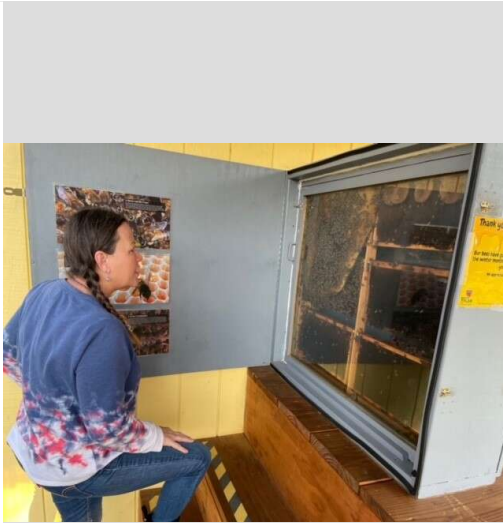
Bee enjoying a snack at the idea garden in the Rose Garden

Education & Outreach

The Bee City USA Committee met and planned the Bee Day in the Garden Celebration which was held on 24, 2021. During the event the committee would lead activities such as bee houses made from crafts, and interactive games focused on celebrating pollinators. Event leaders included Master Gardeners and the East Texas Beekeepers Association members. The committee felt that having pollinator experts at the event was essential to bring factual, local information to the attendees. For National Pollinator Week, we advertised and made resources available to the community virtually, due to still having COVID safety concerns on large gatherings. We provided worksheets and games on our website and share those links on the Tyler Parks and Rec Facebook Page. The desire to raise pollinator awareness, even though we couldn't host an event, made us get creative. We decided to publish an interactive post asking followers to share their pollinator photos. The response was incredible. We had local beekeepers capturing their pollinator habitats that otherwise would have gone unseen by our residents. In May 2021, construction was finally completed on the Honey Bee Observation Hive in the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden. This garden is considered the largest rose garden in the world, making Tyler the "Rose Capital of the World". It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Spaces which will guarantee that the garden remains in perpetuity. The construction of the Honey Bee Observation Hive began in August of 2020 by volunteers from Boys Scouts of America East Texas Area Council and the East Texas Beekeepers Association (ETBA). The Observation Hive box was built by Dick Counts and volunteers from the ETBA. The Honey Bee hive was donated by CNC Honey Farms. November 2021 saw the temperatures start to get colder in East Texas, so it was time to remove the hive at the



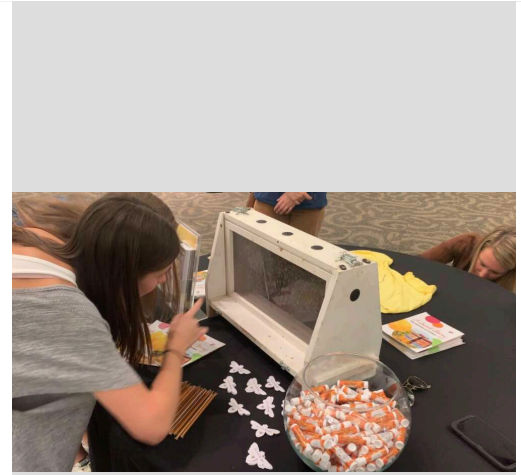
Observatory for the winter. The hive removal will be led by the East Texas Beekeepers Association to ensure the safety of the bees during the winter season. The bees will be returned to the observation hive in the spring when the weather warms up. The bees will be moved to Whitehouse to C.N.C Honey Farm in Whitehouse in an effort to keep them safe for the Winter. Later that month, we partnered with Elzner Farms to display a traveling hive at a local women's luncheon to educate them about pollinators and the Bee City USA Committee.



Megan Elzner of Elzner Farms inspects the Observation Hive before removing it for the winter.



Volunteers and guest gather at the Bee Day in the Garden event



Guests at the women's luncheon view the traveling hive and talk with local beekeepers

Policies & Practices

We are currently reviewing our IPM plan and will have one ready by late 2022. We already avoid the usage of pesticides at all our pollinator gardens and most of our parks.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_east%20

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.breedlovelandscape.com/%20>



Learn More

KeepTylerBeautiful.com

