

Bee City USA - Belmont

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The city partnered with our local elementary school to install a perennial pollinator garden in the school courtyard. Through various local businesses/non-profits, the bee committee was able to secure the materials. The project involved planting perennial pollinator friendly flowering plants (species selected by a local beekeeper) and installing a water source (bird bath) with marbles in place to ensure the bees and butterflies do not drown while drinking. The fifth-grade students painted butterfly houses to include in the garden as well. The garden will continue to benefit our local pollinators in the coming years, as the educators and students at Belmont Central Elementary have committed to caring for the area. This was a great educational opportunity for both the students and adults that participated. In addition to the elementary garden install, as part of the city's Arbor Day celebration, we gave away 40 perennials as prizes. These were for event attendees to take home and plant in their yards. Similar to the species at the elementary school, the giveaway plants were selected by a local beekeeper with the knowledge that these species would be best for our community and our local pollinators. This allowed for bee-friendly plants to be dispersed amongst yards throughout the community. With the plant, we provided written information to visitors of our booth regarding the value of pollinators and how to maintain the plant and a pollinator friendly yard.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

1

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

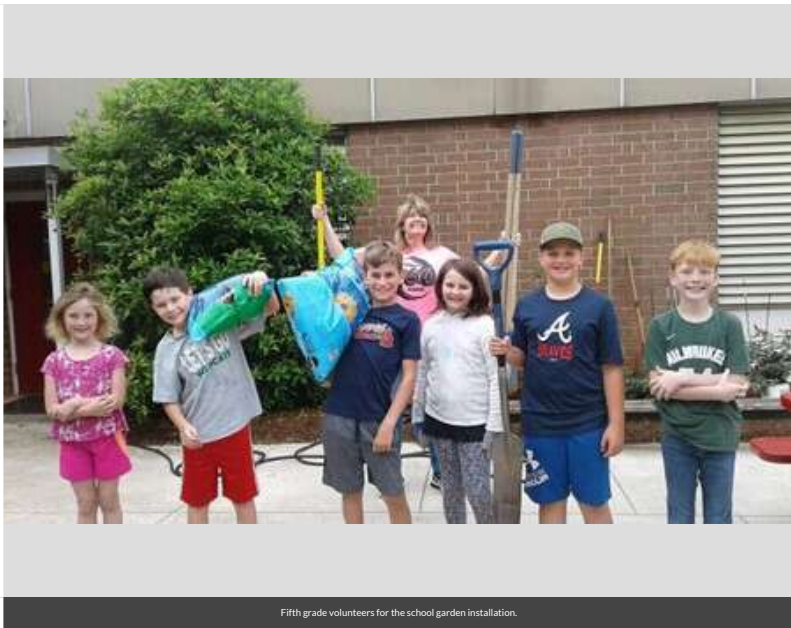
400

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

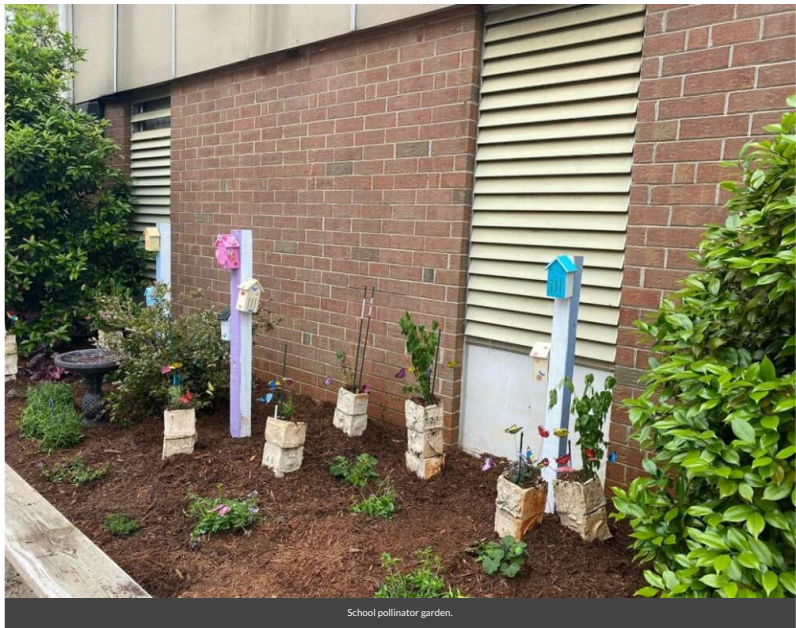
25

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Fifth grade volunteers for the school garden installation.



School pollinator garden.

Education & Outreach

The bee committee hosted two events – the pollinator garden installation at a local elementary and an Arbor Day festival “Garibaldi Goes Green.” Historically, the city hosts a festival every year called Garibaldi Festival, and this celebrates the city’s history. In 2022, the bee committee branded a portion of the festival to “Garibaldi Goes Green: An Arbor Day Celebration” to celebrate Arbor Day. This section of the festival included green-environmentally friendly vendors, plant giveaways, numerous educational booths, and formally planted a tree with our county ranger. Partnering with the already occurring Garibaldi Festival allowed for the city’s Arbor Day event to gain more traction and exposure versus a standalone event. In addition, more residents/visitors were able to firsthand see the initiatives that the city and bee committee are taking to make the city a more pollinator-friendly place. During this event, we gave away pollinator-friendly plants with the hopes that residents would plant the approved species within their yards. This would, as a result, expand the pollinator habitat throughout the city. In addition, it would be an educational moment for residents.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

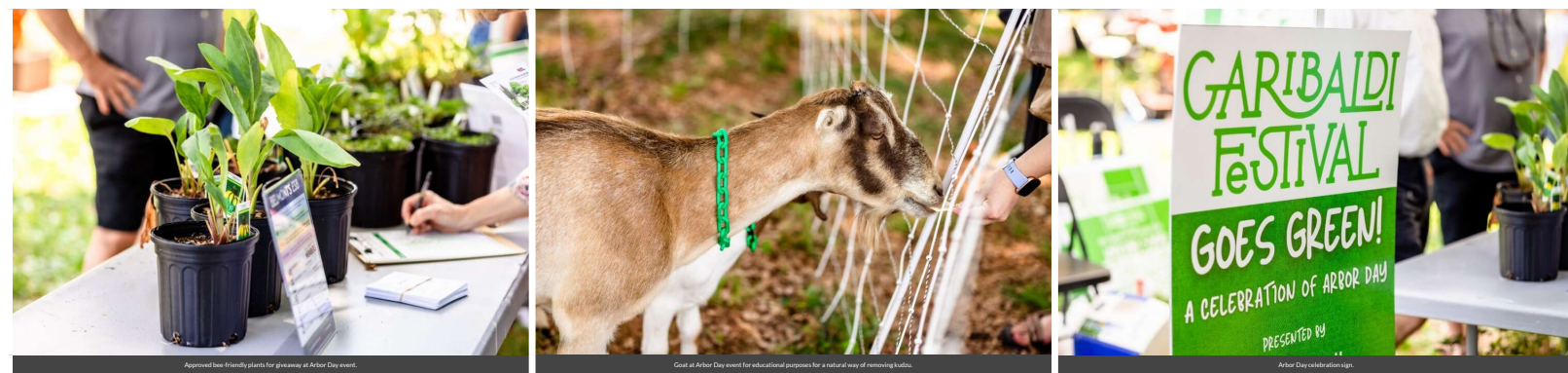
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How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

Did your city council/county commission (highest elected body) issue a proclamation for National Pollinator Week last summer?

Please note: this is now an optional activity.

- Yes



Policies & Practices

The city of Belmont has taken action to make pest management practices more pollinator and environmentally friendly. We have an implemented and maintained integrated pest management plan. This plan includes practices like utilizing organic products and practices, reducing chemical herbicide, educating the public with a community impact plan. The plan outlines procedures for proper pesticides storage and disposal, per state law. Other actions the city is taking includes organic practices such as mowing at the proper height and frequently to discourage weeds, shredding grass clippings, and leaves returning to the soil. The city has taken efforts of reducing herbicides by eliminating certain products and limiting use of harmful products. An example of this includes reducing the use of RoundUp in parks and instead hand edging the overgrown areas. Another example includes the elimination of products containing 2, 4-D, Dicamba, MCPP, and Simazine. Public Works staff has continued to refine practices that are more environmentally friendly and taken on additional training courses for further education on these practices.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)

Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.

No, not within our community in its entirety. However, we are working with a local community garden that does implement pest-friendly practices. Together, we are learning practices that the city could reasonably implement.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

Not exactly. However, we are currently working with local river-keeping groups on how to improve and better protect our waterways. As a result, some of these efforts would further protect local pollinators.

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

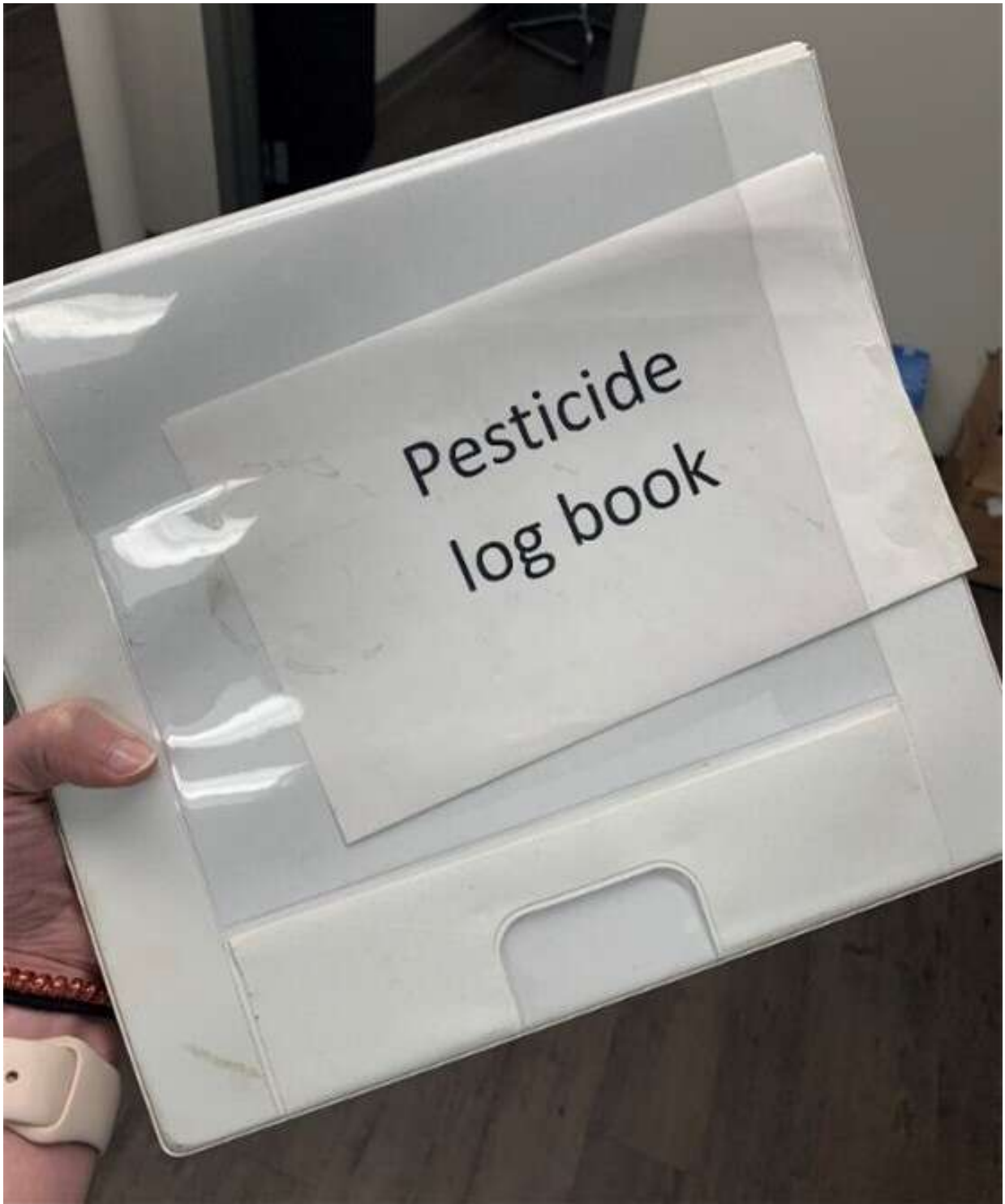
Our Public Works team attends training on proper practices found in the IPM.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.cityofbelmont.org/documents/belmont-approved-tree-species-list/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Belmont's Pesticide Log Book

Learn More

