

Bee City USA - Carlinville

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In celebration of Arbor Day, a local native tree give away was organized by the local Tree City USA, Carlinville committee in collaboration with the local Park District and Library. "Because there is no Planet B": a day long series of rotating exhibits and interactive programs for Kindergarten through 5th graders of the Carlinville School District, engaged over 600 youth, their teachers and administrators with environmental topics and an art project that incorporated a native seeds giveaway, made by students, for students, in the shape and colors of the world. "Meet the Tesla" a collaboration with MJM Rural Electric Cooperative introduced the electric car and presentations on the benefits of clean energy by engineers from the company. All youth had an opportunity to see, touch, learn about the Tesla and those over 18 with parental permission had the opportunity to drive it. The same program was open to the public in the evening. "The Deanna Demuzio Memorial Garden", a new native garden was established at Blackburn College to celebrate the life of a former Carlinville Mayor who helped launch the Bee City USA, Carlinville committee and original pollinator gardens. The project was coordinated through Carlinville Winning Communities, Carlinville National Bank, and funds from grants awarded by Lotus Wind Energy. Blackburn college staff and students donated the labor for this new pollinator garden on their campus in the honor of Mayor Demuzio. A second pollinator garden honoring Jim Taylor was also established on campus with donations and volunteers on the Blackburn College campus. Local volunteers launched a concerted effort to remove invasive plants such as honeysuckle from wooded areas in the local parks and at Blackburn College.

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

3

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

920

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

34

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



We start volunteering young! Others who played a major role in creating and maintaining habitat are: Sheriff Kahl, CHS Class of '68, Blackburn College students, local businesses, youth and seniors.



Bee City committee members helping to "Make Carlinville Beautiful", landscaping the new Carlinville Public Safety Building.



The REO Truck Pollinator garden was expanded this year with hundreds of native seeds and red zinnias that complement the three piece 15' bee and flower sculpture that was added to bring awareness to the needs of pollinators. Members of Bee City Carlinville shown in the picture planned, designed and oversaw the building of the project.

Education & Outreach

Each year our April Earth Day activities expand to a full week of events at multiple locations in and around Carlinville. The City Council and Mayor issued a proclamation at a public event on the city square to open the April 2022 activities. This event celebrates the activities of Bee City, Tree City and all who volunteer in Carlinville on behalf of improving the environment for pollinating insects, birds, bats and residents. The proclamation celebrates all of the activities planned by volunteers for the year. The local Park District continues to expand pollinator habit at all local parks which allows them to mow less each year. New native trees are also planted annually in the parks, on city properties and school grounds. Our

Civic groups, Park District, City, Library and College all work together collaboratively to plan and host activities. During the April week of activities 950 residents, including youth, adults and seniors were involved and each age group participated in organizing the educational outreach. A new group of volunteers composed of youth, Master Gardeners, Rotarians, and Horticulturists were appointed by the Mayor to oversee watering of shrubs and trees on the city square. Volunteers trim and water when necessary, avoiding excessive amounts of water usage and watering at appropriate times of the day. The plants were also mulched with the assistance of our local Walmart's generous donations. Safe drinking water and excessive use of water is something our community focuses on as we move forward with plans to secure a new source of city water. Our efforts to see less runoff in storm drains is being addressed by better practices initiated by Bee City USA, Carlinville members. Other groups involved are the City of Carlinville, Tree City USA, Carlinville, Master Gardeners, Interact Club, Carlinville Boy Scout Troops, Carlinville Rotary Club, Carlinville Lions Club, Carlinville High School students, Macoupin County 4-H members and the Carlinville High School FFA Club. Generous donations for our projects, awareness activities and educational outreach come from the Carlinville Walmart, Lotus Wind Energy and Apex Clean Energy through Carlinville Winning Communities, a local non-profit organized to support worthy projects for the community. The first in a series of "Spruce it up" days was held in the historical Standard Addition neighborhood, sponsored by the Carlinville Lions Club, Goodman Real Estate Agency, Oswald State Farm Insurance Agency, Carlinville Interact Club and Bee City USA, Carlinville volunteers. Over 150 historic Sears Kit Homes need help with various homeowner/rental repairs and landscaping. To prepare for new pollinator gardens in the neighborhood, "spruce it up" days are scheduled to help remove trash in an environmentally friendly way. Contests are being developed for homeowners, tenants and landlords to win native plants for landscaping the yards. This project is financially supported by Lotus Wind Energy and Apex Clean Energy, the Carlinville Lions Club, the Goodman Agency and Carlinville Winning Communities. Bee City USA, Carlinville leads this activity. The REO Truck Pollinator Garden "bee and flower sculpture" was unveiled in October at the Carlinville Plaza. This four-year, three piece, 15' sculpture is a community project. The sculpture was our main awareness and outreach accomplishment in 2022. Set in a pollinator garden on a busy highway, visitors can see it, visit the garden and make the connections. Major donors were Cisco Steel, P and M Machine Shop, Lotus Wind Energy, Apex Energy and the Carlinville Walmart. Numerous volunteers played a role in the design and creation of the project, and as a result, fostering a new community of volunteers and stronger awareness and interest in bees and their food and habitat needs. A Girl Scout Gold award was presented at the ribbon cutting ceremony to a young college student for her role in organizing this installation. The Reo Truck Pollinator Garden is also in the process of expanding the food sources and habitat in 2023-24.

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

15

How many people attended those events (in total)?

950

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 Carlisle pollinator gardens are maintained by volunteers who use no pesticides or herbicides. Many of the new plants we purchase are locally grown without chemicals, others are sourced through native plant groups who promote eliminating chemicals on plants and invasive weeds.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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.

Bee City USA, Carlinville has communicated with both local landscapers and staff who mow lawns in the city limits about limiting the use of Round Up. We've also communicated with the local school district about eliminating chemicals whenever possible.

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

The City of Carlinville is involved in an ongoing effort to stop using lake water for city drinking water and other purposes. The Council is in conversations with others to partner and hook on to an underground aquifer, but this is not a short-term solution. Currently, our water situation could be considered critical or emergency due to silt build up and runoff that causes major treatment issues.

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?

No specific training was attended; however, individuals participate in Zoom meetings presented by the University of Illinois and others who address water quality issues and solutions.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>

Learn More

<http://www.carlinvillebees.org>

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A community celebration honoring the volunteers who planned, dreamed, designed, and erected the sculpture are in the photograph. City Officials and other volunteers are also included.