

Bee City USA - City of Ypsilanti

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Ypsilanti DDA pushed to transform City lots from regular landscaping to native landscaping. Unfortunately it was not in the budget in 2022. The city continues to maintain current native pollinator habitats and discourages the use of pesticides. City of Ypsilanti Planning department started reviewing landscaping for new site plans to ensure no invasive, or potentially invasive plants are used. They provided lists of native pollinator friendly alternatives.

Education & Outreach

On September 2, 2022 The Tenth Annual Festival of the Pollinator (formally Festival of the Honey Bee) took place. There was a lot of online education and discussion about the the name change from Honey Bee to Pollinator. The annual event expanded from a vendor fair, live art throwdown and Drag show in our Downtown District, to an additional vendor fair, live artist throwdown in our Historic Depot Town District as well. Depot Town featured a new event called "Rumble of the Bumble" a wrestling showdown between bumble bees (Bruce Buzzbee) and chemical pesticides (Guy Phosate). We revamped the Pollinator Pub Crawl, where participants buzzed between 11 locations, dressed as pollinators to help raise awareness of the importance of pollinators. As always, these events are all in conjunction with First Fridays Ypsilanti, and local businesses participated with pollinator themed events in store.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

4000

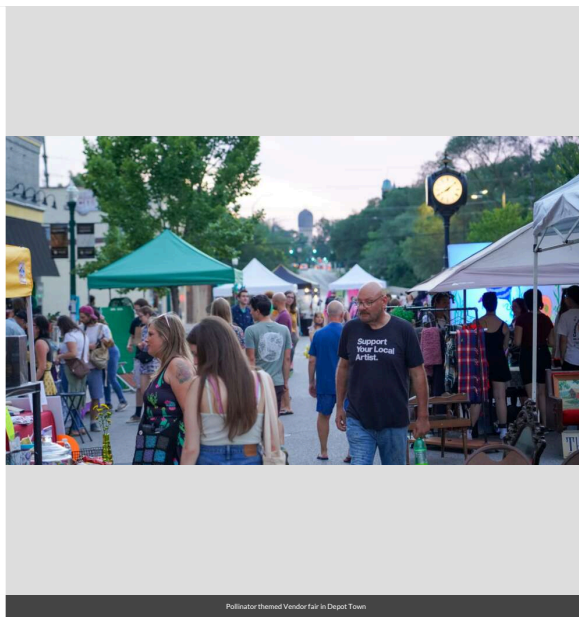
How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

3

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 continues to maintain current native pollinator habitats and discourages the use of pesticides. The Ypsilanti DDA also encourages businesses to use organic weed control vs. chemical options.

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

- 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)
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides 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>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants 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.

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

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?

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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