

# Bee City USA - College Park

Report on 2022

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Girls Scout Troop 96 partnered with the Bee City committee for advice on selecting pollinator friendly plants for renovating a portion of an existing city planting. The girls selected various pollinator friendly species, designed a planting using 44 plants to plant in the 256 square foot prepared space and installed the plants. Good Neighbor Day, annual volunteer event, included the renovation of 4 city maintained planting areas, totaling 1,000 square feet, with 137 pollinator friendly plants that qualified for a mini-grant from the Endangered Species Coalition. At least 24 volunteers assisted with the plantings.

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

5

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

425

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

28

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

- Flower garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Girl scouts from Troop 96 & Bee City Chairman planting pollinator friendly plants



GND volunteers planted 66 pollinator friendly plants in renovated bed



GND volunteers planted 43 pollinator friendly plants in renovated bed

## Education & Outreach

The committee packaged milkweed and partridge pea seeds and placed 180 seed packets in Little Free Libraries throughout the City for residents to pick up and plant. The committee hosted a build-a-bee-hotel workshop to celebrate pollinator week. Materials and directions were prepared for the 25 registrants to construct a bee hotel they could take home to install in their yard. The committee coached a local girl scout troop to renovate a portion of an existing non-native planting to replant with pollinator friendly plants, and the construction & installation of a bee hotel. The committee's recommendation to the Mayor & Council was approved for a pilot initiative for No Mow April. As a result of the robust interest in the No Mow April initiative, the committee recommended to Mayor & Council to approve a permanent No Mow April resolution where code enforcement of tall grass height would be suspended during the April. Supported community volunteer projects to renovate and install 4 pollinator friendly plantings. Provided educational information about the benefit of pollinators at city sponsored events.

*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)?*

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

1

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

**BEE HOTEL BUILDING WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH | 1:00 - 4:00PM**  
Davis Hall 9217 51st Ave, College Park, MD 20740

Register at <https://bit.ly/BEE-WORKSHOP>

You must pre-register and a small fee of \$10 per bee house will be used to offset the cost of materials.

**SPONSORED BY:**  
The City of College Park's Bee City USA Committee  
College Park Arts Exchange

advertisement for build-a-bee-hotel-workshop

THIS HOME IS PARTICIPATING IN  
**NO MOW APRIL**  
TO PROMOTE POLLINATOR HABITAT

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

Lawn sign for registered residents participating in No Mow April 2022

**POLLINATOR GARDEN UNDERWAY**

A home to native plants that provide critical food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and other wildlife.

A native garden SLEEPS the first season, CREEPS the second season, and LEAPS the third!

For more information visit: [collegeparkmd.gov/pollinators](http://collegeparkmd.gov/pollinators)

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

Educational signage for newly seeded pollinator garden

## Policies & Practices

Insecticide use at city maintained sites is very rare, as cultural control of pests is the first option selected. Pest thresholds are high, so some plant damage is tolerated. Herbicides are used more frequently to help reduce the need for hand weeding in highly visible locations.

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)

*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.*

The City has been selling GAT traps, for residential mosquito control as a mechanism to help reduce Asian tiger mosquito populations in residential areas & the need for state sponsored insecticide spraying by vehicles travelling on neighborhood streets. By participating in the state sponsored mosquito control program, technicians hired by the State treat known areas of standing water with biological control products to reduce insect development. Educational information is pushed out to residents during mosquito season about the need to eliminate standing water on their property to reduce mosquito breeding sites.

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

Residents and the city can request no mosquito spraying from the State operated truck with application equipment on the street at their property. Applications made by State technicians occur only after landing or trap counts exceed thresholds. No blanket applications are made. Stormwater management structures are being installed in conjunction with development projects that capture, slow & filter rainwater before it enters creeks & streams to help filter out pollutants. Storm drain inlets are also being marked with medallions or colorfully painted with native animals found in local waterways to increase awareness about only storm water down the drain. Educational information pushed out during No Mow April recommends reducing pesticide use at this time when early season pollinators are active.

*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?*

The staff liaison and landscape staff attend approved annual training to renew their state issued pesticide certifications, and there are always sessions that review IPM principles. A committee member is a professor at the University of Maryland in the Entomology Department and assisted with drafting and review of our IPM plan.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CP IPM program AE BA.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant Guide for Pollinators.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2823/Native-Plant-Guide-for-Pollinators?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Local native plant vendor List 2023.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4203/Local-native-plant-vendor-List-2023>

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL IN  
ANY YEAR AS “NO MOW MONTH” TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO  
VOLUNTARILY DELAY LAWN CARE AND MOWING TO SUPPORT  
POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY HABITAT DURING A CRITICAL PERIOD OF  
POLLINATOR EMERGENCE**

WHEREAS, as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, the City of College Park and the City’s Bee City USA Committee, are encouraged to develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices; and

WHEREAS, the City is in a unique position to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by incentivizing its residents to take direct and meaningful action on private properties; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat comprises mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering; is free or nearly free of pesticides, comprises and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species that depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat, and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing; and

WHEREAS, Bee City USA has encouraged local governments to adopt “No Mow April” to support pollinator-friendly habitat during the month of April, which is a critical period of pollinator emergence; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution 21-R-24, which designated April, 2022, as No Mow April as part of a pilot program to support pollinator-friendly habitat during the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species on private property; and

WHEREAS, based on the results of the pilot program and the recommendation of the Bee City USA Committee, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the public interest to permanently establish and implement the No Mow April program without any requirement for registration or posting of signs by residents.

Resolution for annual designation of No Mow April page 1

Learn More

