

Bee City USA - Davidson

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Davidson hosted several pollinator habitat creation and enhancement events. Included were numerous tree plantings, involving over 150 volunteers in 2022. A total of 136 trees, including native tree species that benefit pollinators and other wildlife were planted at different locations on town streets and in local parks. High school volunteers cut invasive plants at a Nature Observatory behind a local school and arranged bird nested materials to augment habitat areas. Over 20 middle school students and their teachers decorated flags to place on stakes at a local park to mark fields with concentrations of milkweed to keep the plants from being mowed or trampled. The students later returned to collect data to assess pollinator plant counts found within the protected habitat area. At the same park, a local girl scout built a Bee Hotel as part of her Gold Award, that was later added to the protected habitat site. We are certain to have happy pollinators later this summer!

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?

25000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

22

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

- Meadow
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Education & Outreach

This has been another busy year for the Town of Davidson and the Davidson Lands Conservancy who lead Bee City events and programs, along with other community partners. The Girl Scouts maintained the pollinator perennials in the Nature Observatory behind a local school planted in 2021 and enhanced the habitat with bird boxes. Stream habitats around Davidson were cleared of trash and debris by dozens of volunteers, clearing streams for invertebrate breeding. A moth night event was held in a nature preserved and very popular. Education efforts included summer programming through Freedom School, a free after school tutoring program, and booths at the Davidson Farmers Market and Davidson Lands Conservancy fall NatureFest. All education initiatives emphasize the importance of pollinators through hands on learning activities. World of Wonder events (10 held annually) introduced children to many aspects of conservation and habitat protection, including pollinator health. Trees Davidson hosted several tree plantings and tree maintenance events, involving over 150 volunteers in 2022 enhancing and stewarding native tree canopies and promoting pollinator habitats. The 500 participants and volunteers made these events a success!

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

14

How many people attended those events (in total)?

505

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.*

- No



Inside the Hive Family Outing



Garden Tour Pollinator Notes



Moth Night Event

Policies & Practices

The Town of Davidson is currently researching best practices and has continued to pilot six parks and other town property that use organic methods for pests and weed management. The town has avoided the use of pesticides in designated pollinator habitat, except when targeted herbicide use is deemed the best option for invasive plants. In 2021, the town adopted a Sustainability Framework that includes an action item that calls for reviewing community contaminant policies/progress. In the coming year, the town will review all external contracts and contractors to determine if there are products being utilized that can be substituted for more sustainable or non-toxic options. As well as increase the number of town staff trained on the use of organic products and non-toxic landscape management. Implementing these new methods and products will be a great learning experience and support the creation an IPM plan in the future that is a good fit for the town.

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

- **Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied**

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.

Community volunteers will educate the community and provide recommendations for the home landscape, as well as share why these methods are beneficial.

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: [Native Wildflowers of North Carolina.pdf](#)

<https://ncwildflower.org/native-plant-handouts/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Sources for Native Plants.pdf](#)

Learn More

<https://davidsonlands.org>