

Bee City USA - Decatur

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

City of Decatur currently has two plots of land set aside that we help maintain as dedicated pollinator habitat. Volunteer habitat workdays were organized by Claudia McDavid, our pollinator habitat coordinator, and held in March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October. Members of the Dekalb County Extension Master Gardeners have been indispensable in helping us to maintain Decatur's Willow Lane Pollinator habitat. In August, the Willow Lane site hosted a neighborhood Meet-N-Greet event where we tabled and answered questions from members of the local community. This year, one of our many talented volunteers constructed a beautiful new sign for the property, and another volunteer built a wonderful garden bench. New plantings were installed using funds generated by our Give A Gift That Grows and our Decatur Pollinator Pledge giving programs.

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

2

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

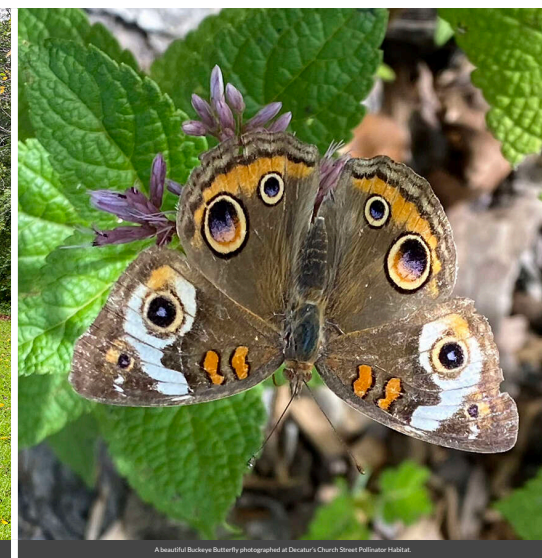
43560

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

16

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

- Flower 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



Education & Outreach

Beecatur participated in a wide variety of educational outreach activities during 2022. Some highlights include: Our year began with our annual Mason Bee Workshop on 2/26. Presented in conjunction with one our community partners, the Wylde Center, this event educates kids 6 to 13 years old about mason bees, where they live, their lifecycle and how they are different from other sorts of bees. Participants assemble a simple Mason Bee house to take home and hang in their yard. In April, we participated in City of Decatur's Earth Day observation by tabling at the event held at the the city's recreation center. We distributed literature, answered questions, sold mosquito spraying signs, and exhibited honey bees in an observation hive. The highlight of our year is our annual National Pollinator Week Festival on downtown Decatur Square. The event featured 26 area environmental organizations tabling with information and offering activities for kids. Included were native plant sellers, Monarchs Across Georgia, Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, Georgia Audubon and many others. There was also facepainting and a popsicle vendor on hand. In August, we held a neighborhood Meet and Greet at one of the city's pollinator habitats. The event gave a chance to table and answer questions during the Upper Superior neighborhood's monthly popsicle night. In October, Beecatur chair Peter Helfrich participated as a member of a panel discussion at the Protecting Pollinators in Urban Environments Conference at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. In October, chair Peter Helfrich visited four Winnona Park 2nd grade classrooms to talk about Decatur's native bees, including why/how Halloween would be very different without pollinators. He presented a similar talk to three Glennwood Elementary 2nd grade classes in November, and included how/why Thanksgiving would be different without bees and other pollinators.

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)?

457

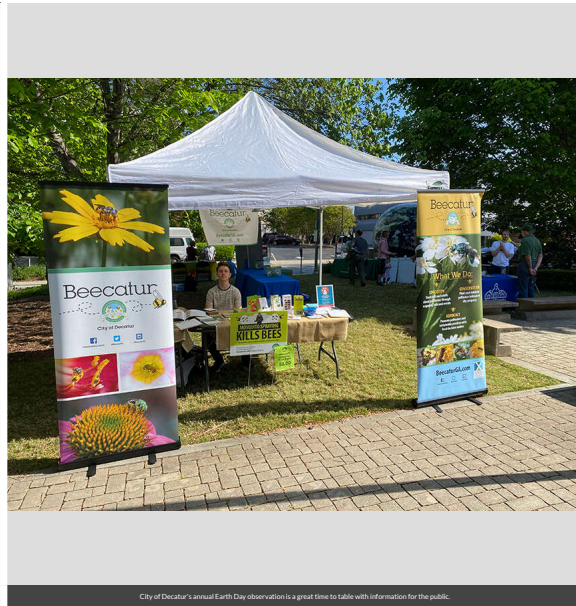
How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

2

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

We continue to work with the city on putting in place a formal IPM plan that would strengthen the IPM language already contained in the city's existing sustainable landscaping policy, adopted in 2010.

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
- 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.

Our education initiative related to residential mosquito spraying is ongoing throughout the Decatur community. We produce printed hand-outs we distribute at tabling events and community presentations, and sell yard signs. We continue to update a dedicated section of our website with information on mosquito spraying at:

<https://www.beecaturga.com/mosquito-spraying>

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides? Georgia is an explicit preemption state, where state law prohibits all lower governing bodies from passing any codes, ordinances, laws, restrictions, constraints, etc. on the use, sale, etc. of pesticides in any way. City leaders are wary of any policy that could be construed as infringing on state law.

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?

Beecatur chair Peter Helfrich attend and participated in the Protecting Pollinators in Urban Environments Conference Panel Discussion held at the University of Georgia in October. Xerces Society's many webinars related to this topic have also been valuable and were shared with appropriate city contacts/leaders. We have reviewed extensively plans developed by Carboro, NC, Talent, OR and Davis, CA, and shared/met with city leaders about putting in place similar programs.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [NATIVE PLANT LISTS_beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists)

<https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [NATIVE PLANT GROWERS_beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers)

<https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers>

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