

Bee City USA - Town of Garner

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Native Plant Sensory Garden (Hosted) – This garden celebrates the five senses of hearing, sight, smell, taste and touch. Each section of the garden appeals to an individual sense. We have selected plants that are native to North Carolina, most of them pollinator friendly. During three separate volunteer workdays, groups prepared the site, planted the garden and assisted with ongoing maintenance. Low Mow Zones (Hosted) – We identified three areas in two parks as “Low Mow Zones.” These zones are left alone to grow wild in order to provide habitats for native pollinators. Leaving this land alone allows for pollinators to build a safe and undisturbed home. Leaving seed heads and stems will help our solitary bees have nesting materials, which is something we try to do in other gardens as well.

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?

115000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

20

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Volunteers of all ages help prep land for a sensory garden.



Volunteers stand by the Sensory Garden sign after helping weed and plant.



A sign denotes a Low Mow Zone, where grass is mowed less frequently to protect habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

Education & Outreach

The City Nature Challenge (international) and Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz (national) are citizen science projects that encourage participants to document wildlife species they find in their area. It helps to create a snapshot of biodiversity throughout the country and/or world, and also spreads awareness about the importance of biodiversity and conservation. For the City Nature Challenge, we hosted a guided hike in which we took a walk through White Deer Park, taking pictures and learning about whatever wildlife species we came across. For the Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz, we hosted a virtual/self-led event in which participants could log any observations of pollinators or flowering plants to our online project, while also completing a pollinator BINGO card to earn a prize button. There were additional private and public programs offered, including Insect Investigations and Insect Adventures. Throughout the fall, staff monitored the Monarch caterpillars and chrysalises within the Monarch Waystation beside White Deer Park Nature Center, only interfering when adults would have failed to emerge from the chrysalis. We also implemented several "low mow" zones in order to preserve habitat for pollinator species.

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

7

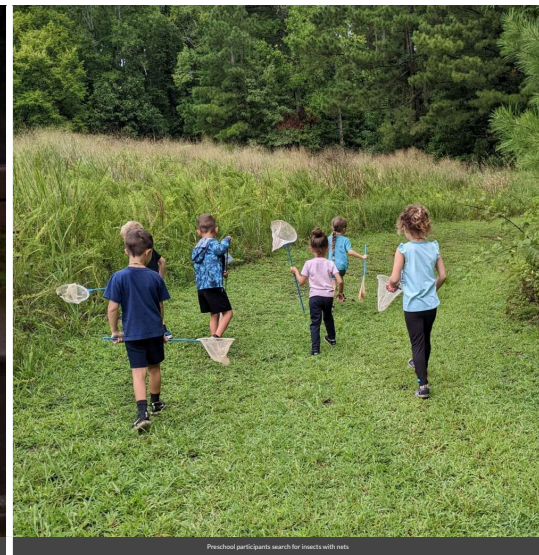
How many people attended those events (in total)?

93

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.

- No



Policies & Practices

We have worked with our Public Works Department (responsible for parks maintenance) to identify areas that do not need to be treated for pests. This includes all pollinator gardens. We have hired a new parks manager who carries a pesticide applicators license. We now have an even better opportunity to understand and implement IPM strategies for our parks.

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)
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- 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.

No

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

There are no new policies in place regarding pesticides, but we are seeing a shift to more sustainable practices overall.

We are hopeful this will trickle down to other areas of operations.

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?

Our Outdoor Education and Parks Manager attended an "Insect Update" virtual training in September. She plans to seek out CEUs with a specific focus on integrated pest management.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More

GarnerNC.gov

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