

Bee City USA - Hawthorn Woods

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

As a municipality, we have a unique opportunity to educate residents and model unique, but replicable, urban pollinator habitats. A concerted outreach effort will also be conducted by our Sustainability Committee to educate members of the corresponding neighborhood Homeowners Associations. We have adopted a Pollinator Pocket Program, which provides our residents with a practical demonstration of proper management techniques in creating a pollinator-friendly garden, easily adopted by resident homeowners surrounding each of these neighborhood road islands. Residents will be continuously driving or walking by these pollinator pockets. The road islands in Hawthorn Woods already support large trees and some shrub and decorative species to beautify and add more greenery for our residents. This Sustainability Committee project takes unused portions of these islands and introduces pollinator-friendly plants to, over time, create small gardens, thus increasing our pollinator friendly landscape. In 2022, 480 pollinator plugs were planted in 22 municipal road islands, in addition to the 22 in 2021, for a total of 960 pollinator plugs to date. Our Sustainability Committee hosted these planting events in coordination with a local girl scout troop and the Rotary Club of Kildeer, Long Grove, and Hawthorn Woods. The rotary club provided volunteers that assisted the girl scout troops in planting the gardens, as well as donating \$1,000 towards pollinator plugs and seeds for planting. In addition to these road island plantings, we planted Canna bulbs around all 24 of our Village park signs to promote even more pollinator habitat where we could. These Canna bulbs were donated by our own Superintendent of Parks taken from his grandparents' homestead. New this year, our Village has begun the implementation of our Hawthorn Heritage Outdoor Museum Trail, located within Community Park. This trail will feature a variety of plant boxes and trees dedicated to influential individuals who had an impact in our community. Our Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts worked together to design and build these plant boxes. They also played a major role in watering and caring for these plants in the midst of the summer heat. This year, we were able to create the Phoebe Snetsinger Memorial Garden, which is the first of several horticultural installments to be implemented along the trail to commemorate particular individuals involved in the historical development of the Village of Hawthorn Woods. The Village will also purchase and plant twenty-eight trees to surround our Hawthorn Heritage Outdoor Museum Trail, as a result of the \$15,000 grant award that we received through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. Indian Creek Nature Preserve was once a 9.5-acre thicket of overgrown vegetation. However, through the extensive clearing and planting efforts of our Village Parks Crew and a diverse group of dedicated volunteers, Indian Creek is now a sustainable woodland and wetland pollinator habitat. These individuals helped to restore this natural habitat and even plant 18 more trees. To improve this natural habitat, some fallen trees were also left to provide shelter and other habitat opportunities for ground dwelling species. Indian Creek is open to the public and accessible to all mobilities, located within the Conservatory of Indian Creek subdivision. This park boasts an ADA accessible trail, in addition to ADA benches constructed with recycled materials. All of this is just phase 1 of our plan to renew this space to its full potential as a sanctuary for pollinators and a way to educate our community on their importance.

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

19

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

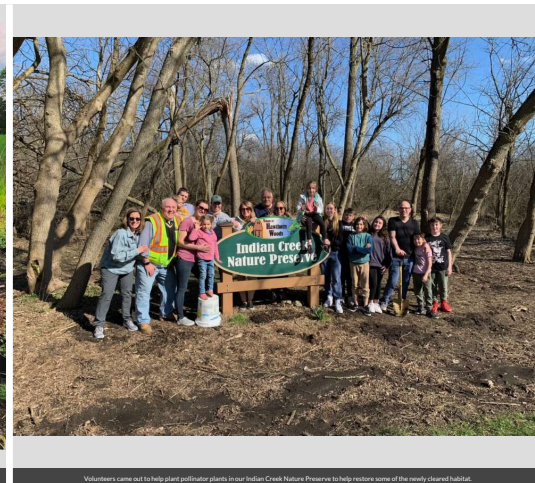
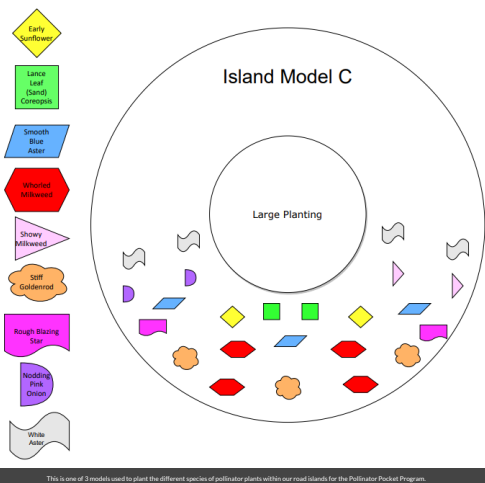
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How many volunteers helped with those projects?

138

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Education & Outreach

Since Hawthorn Woods' 2020 designation with Bee City USA, the Village has gone above and beyond in its commitment to expanding pollinator habitat expansion, education, and beneficial practices. In 2022, we were unable to host a pollinator week due to our coordinator receiving a new job opportunity with the county. We aim to hold an engaging and educational pollinator week in 2023. Though we were not able to have a pollinator week, the following are examples of how we educated our community and kept them informed on all things about pollinators. Our Hawthorn Woods in Bloom committee members hosted an information table at many of our community events throughout the year. They handed out informational brochures as well as seed packets on multiple occasions. These events had anywhere from 500 to 800 people throughout the events. A collaboration with the Lake County Beekeeper's Association resulted in a Virtual seminar to educate residents about honeybees and what habitat is beneficial for all pollinators. Every year, the Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Committee hosts a public Tree Giveaway event for residents. Tree saplings are purchased from the Mason State Nursery and are given to residents with instructions on where and how to plant for optimal results. In addition, wildflower and milkweed seed packets are provided to those who come. The selected species are all native to Hawthorn Woods and instructions for maintenance are given with each sapling. We had over 500 cars drive thru and receive tree saplings for their home. Any unclaimed saplings are retained and planted in one of the Village's parks or preserves by staff or volunteers. Through the Parks and Recreation Department a new program will be introduced in 2023 entitled Little Explorers. In this program, kids ages 7-12 get to go to our different parks and learn about all the animals in their community. Throughout this 6-week program, the importance of pollinators is talked about consistently to help educate the younger generation on the environment that they live in. Similarly, Director Brian Sullivan spoke at a camp outing at Rambling Hills Park for a Girl Scout troop in our community. He educated the group on the need of pollinators and the planting/care of flowers and trees. Educational signs are posted throughout our parks to teach the public about the surrounding habitat. A new sign was put in place within our newly cleared trail at Indian Creek Nature Preserve. In Brierwoods Preserve, there are brochures available at the beginning and end of the walking trail. They contain plant

identification information and details about the present native plants and why they are beneficial for pollinators. These native plant guides, individual to each park location, will be created and made available within each of our parks.

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

17

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1600

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.

- Yes



Arbor Day Tree Cleanaway event, pictured are volunteers dispersing trees and information.



Pictured above is one of our educational signs on the newly cleared trail within the Indian Creek Preserve.



Pictured above is one of our local Girl Scout Troops and Director of Parks and Recreation Brian Sullivan after his educational discussion, then planting Camia bulbs with them in our Standing Hills Park.

Policies & Practices

The Village is proud to continue the Green Business Program of Hawthorn Woods in 2022, and designate our first Green Business Award Certification. This program is intended to promote and celebrate green business practices in our community, big and small. It also aims to educate business owners on options for greening their business, to incentivize sustainable actions in our municipality, and to publicly recognize these accomplishments to residents and customers. Local

business owners can learn how to reduce energy costs, manage waste, and support natural landscapes through our Green Business Guidebook and Action Resources. This program is assigned to our Sustainability Committee, who meet quarterly to review activities and identify participants within the community. Continuing the Village's environmental efforts, our raised gardens were once again planted and harvested by Village employees. The raised gardens are located at Village Hall and at our Public Works Building, where both flowers and garden vegetables are grown. The purchased plants are organically grown and placed together in plant communities that do not compete with one another. The Village continues to recycle large pieces of wood from trees that have been cut down into container gardens. These large pieces of wood are hollowed out, with drainage holes carved out and then planted up. They can be seen in front of Village Hall and in front of various local businesses throughout our community. They will soon be available for the front porches of our residents. These containers, each one unique, are sculpted by our Public Works Department and can be utilized year after year. This is a 100% eco-friendly initiative. In 2022, the Village applied for two grants to improve Woodland Park. Part of this restoration includes the repurposing of some of these stumps into additional ADA benches for our community. In June 2022, our Sustainability Committee presented the Urban Forestry Management Plan to our Village Board and was approved to begin implementation over this past summer. This summer, we were able to plant various trees throughout some of our parks. With that, we also began the process of applying for two grants to compliment our current grant through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. This will allow us to greatly improve our overall Village inventory of tree species to further benefit our pollinator habitats. A continuous effort within our community is the removal of thistle and teasel throughout our parks. This is a constant group effort to eliminate these invasive species in order to restore these natural pollinator sanctuaries. This, along with our use of organic pesticides and all phosphate-free fertilizer, will enable us to further create an environment for pollinators to thrive.

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)**
- **Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds**
- **Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied**
- **Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds**
- **Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds**
- **Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)**
- **Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids**
- **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.

Yes, we created and dispersed pamphlets with information on proper plant care and use of pesticides during our Tree Giveaway event in which over 500 people participated.

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

No

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?

Sustainability Committee members attended workshops through the Morton Arboretum, the America in Bloom Symposium, as well as the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Conference.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Village of Hawthorn Woods EAB Management Plan.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [NativePlantPollinatorChart.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Hawthorn Woods Native Plant Supplier List.pdf](#)

Teasel Newsletter Entry

Each spring is an opportunity to defend against an invader in our native ecosystems. Common Teasel rosettes begin to develop early in spring that crowd out native grasses and plants, potentially driving them from our community entirely. These plants produce thousands of seeds that can last for years in our soils, so it is best to address them before they get a chance to go to seed. Look for shiny, green, rosette leaves with scalloped edges and stout hairs on the upper surface of each leaf.

Residents are strongly encouraged to dig up these rosettes with a dandelion weeder or other tool than can clear out the teasel's 2 ft deep root systems. Once the roots are dug out, fill in the space with soil and other plant material so the rosette does not return from the remaining root structure. The pulled rosette should be bagged and disposed of in a garbage can so it does not take root elsewhere. Another option is to use 2,4-D herbicides from your local hardware store, simply sprayed onto the rosette. The Village believes it is important to protect our prized biodiversity present in Hawthorn Woods. By removing teasel our residents help ensure habitat remains for plant species like Goldenrod and Asters and animal species like Monarch Butterflies and Bumble Bees.



This is a copy of a newsletter sent out to our residents to educate them on proper removal teasel around their homes.

[Learn More](#)