

Bee City USA - Hillsborough

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Some of the volunteer work day events include: Weekly volunteer workdays removing invasive species (e.g., Chinese privet, multi-flora rose, English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese stiltgrass) from the Eno River basin. Three workdays in September in which local high school students removed stiltgrass from two municipal parks. And Five to six planting sessions in November and December installing native plants in the Eno River basin, including these species: painted and yellow buckeye, silky dogwood, winterberry, buttonbush, spice bush, clethra, soft rush, three species of sedge, and sweetflag. The 76+ volunteers for these workdays had upwards of 275 hours of volunteer time.

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

12

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

78147

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

76

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



A large group of High School Volunteers remove invasive still grass from a Public park.



Weekly volunteer work to create new habitat by planting along the river.

Education & Outreach

- Proclamation of National Pollinator Week in NC by Governor Roy Cooper Club president Ann Burton wrote a request to Governor Roy Cooper that he declare Pollinator Week to be the third week in June. Governor Cooper did so on May 10, 2022.
- Proclamation of Pollinator Week in Hillsborough by the Town Board and Mayor Jennifer Weaver. The proclamation was issued on June 13, 2022.
- Educational Tour of Local woman's Garden June 18. Visitors were educated about natural vegetable gardening, cold stratification and gardening for pollinators. They answered questions, distributed a list of plants on the property and materials from Pollinator Partnership about how to start a native pollinator garden for season-long bloom. Approximately 60 individuals of all ages attended.
- Distribution of educational materials at the Public Library. The library distributed handouts on native plants and on pollinator gardening. During June they had book displays about pollinator insects and animals and also distributed wildflower seeds.
- Distribution of Native Wildflower Seeds from the NC Botanical Garden Wildflower of the Year seeds were supplied to our community. A member made decorative baskets and signage for the materials, and several local organizations and businesses served as distribution points.
- Bee Photo Scavenger Hunt June 26. Family teams took photos of hidden bee and bee-hive signs in eight designated town parks to qualify for prizes. Teams that took at least 20 photos received prizes of native pollinator plants.
- Additional non-sponsored community activities The Orange County Master Gardeners focused their June activities at the Eno River Farmer's Market on pollinator gardening information. The Passmore Senior Center hosted a talk on beekeeping by the Orange County Beekeeper's Association on June 22, 2022. Margaret Lane Gallery sponsored a week-long pollinator art exhibit and pollinator-themed children's arts activities.

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

How many people attended those events (in total)?

195

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

2

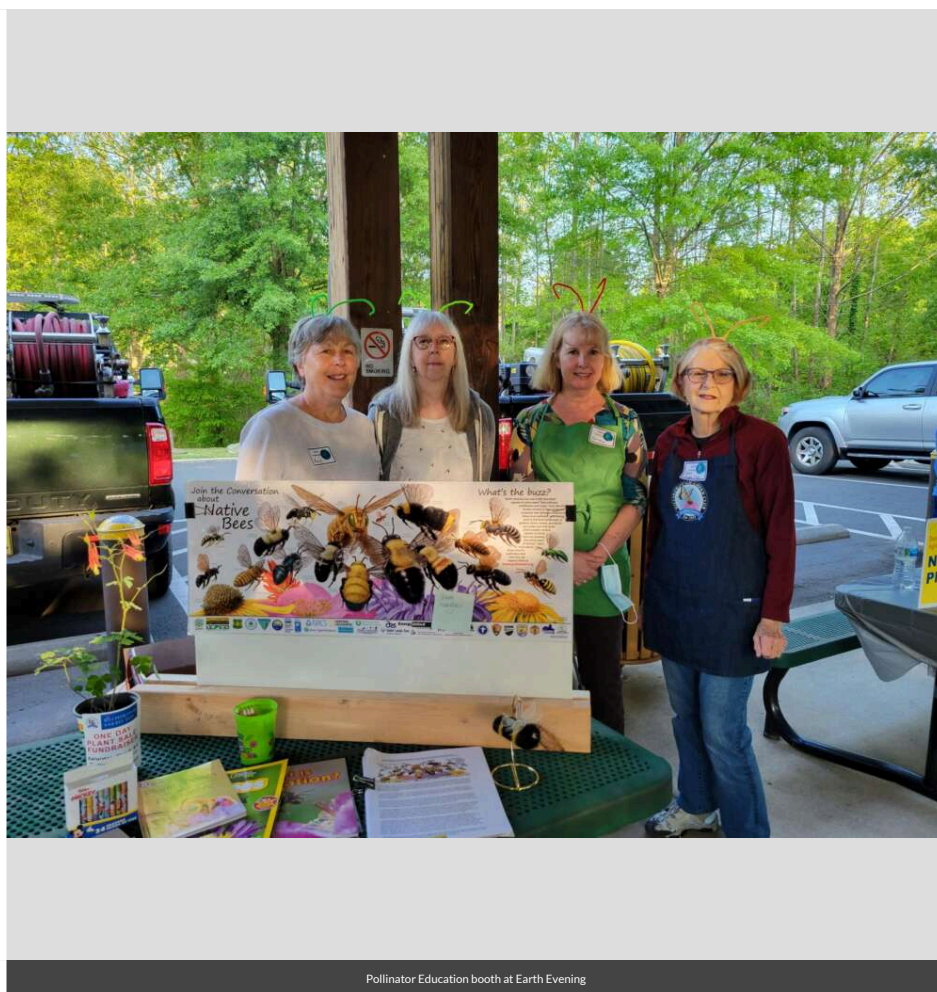
Did your city council/county commission (highest elected body) issue a proclamation for National Pollinator Week last summer?

Please note: this is now an optional activity.

- Yes



Earth Evening Event



Pollinator Education booth at Earth Evening

Policies & Practices

The Town does not have an IPM, but we do have a section regarding pest management in our contract for Grounds Maintenance. It reads “No pesticides or herbicides will be used in landscaped or lawn areas without prior written approval from the Project Contact for the Client. All chemicals shall be used in strict accordance with the intent of the Client to maintain a healthy, sustainable landscape that will minimize the need for and use of chemical controls.” Pesticide use on town property is limited to fire ants, and stinging insects only when they are nested within a children’s play area.

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**
- **Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds**
- **Dropped pesticide use altogether on city or campus grounds**
- **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>)**

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.

As last year, We continue press releases and articles raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and encourage limited to no use of harmful pesticides.

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

The previous change to the Town Ordinance to encourage No Mow Landscapes with the purpose of creating more environments for bees and other pollinators. We continue to share and promote online resources and worked in coordination with the Master gardeners who produce educational videos such as: Edible Landscapes, Rain Gardens, and Native Plans/Pollinators and more. The videos are about 10-15 minutes long each and are posted on the Town Website.

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?

While we do not currently have a formal IPM plan, it is an action item in the soon-to-be-adopted Comprehensive

Sustainability Plan to develop an IPM.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

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

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [native-plant-and-seed-suppliers.pdf](#)

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

Learn More

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=townofhillsboroughncgovernment>



The Tree Board plants a tree along our Riverwalk greenway.