

Bee City USA - Howard County

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Our Habitat Registration form continues to reach a broader audience and registrations paint a picture of the past and present commitment to supporting pollinators in Howard County. Data collected in our form is used by Howard County Government to track its commitment to Clean and Sustainable Environment goals, one being to reach 75 acres of Pollinator Habitat on public and private land by 2025. After just narrowly passing the goal in 2021 with 75.6 acres, we jumped to 84.5 acres in 2022. We had 73 pollinator habitat registrations in 2022 and a total of 250 habitats have been registered since 2020. Community members who register their habitat are eligible for a free garden sign, and in 2022 we developed a Spanish version of our signs. We have given out over 140 habitat signs in the last 2 years! Committee member organizations were involved in a variety of events and opportunities for the community to create and enhance pollinator habitat in Howard County. The Columbia Association (CA) hosts events throughout the year that focus on removing invasive plants and planting native plants. Their Adopt a Spot program recognizes spots in open space where Weed Warriors have been removing non-native invasive plants and replacing them with native plants through repeated Pull and Plant Events. The Adopt-A-Spot program also provides Weed Warriors with the opportunity to work with CA staff and select new spots to begin the process of removing unwanted non-native invasive plants and replacing them with more desirable native plants. To see locations and find out more here:

<https://www.columbiaassociation.org/open-space/sustainability-initiatives/adopt-a-spot/> In addition, Howard County's CleanScapes program saw an installation of 60 rain garden and conservation landscaping projects that not only improve water quality but feature nearly 100% native plant species that support pollinators and other wildlife. These projects are part of the CleanScapes residential reimbursement program which provides a financial incentive to homeowners for installing projects that treat stormwater and improving habitat.

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

73

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

387684

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

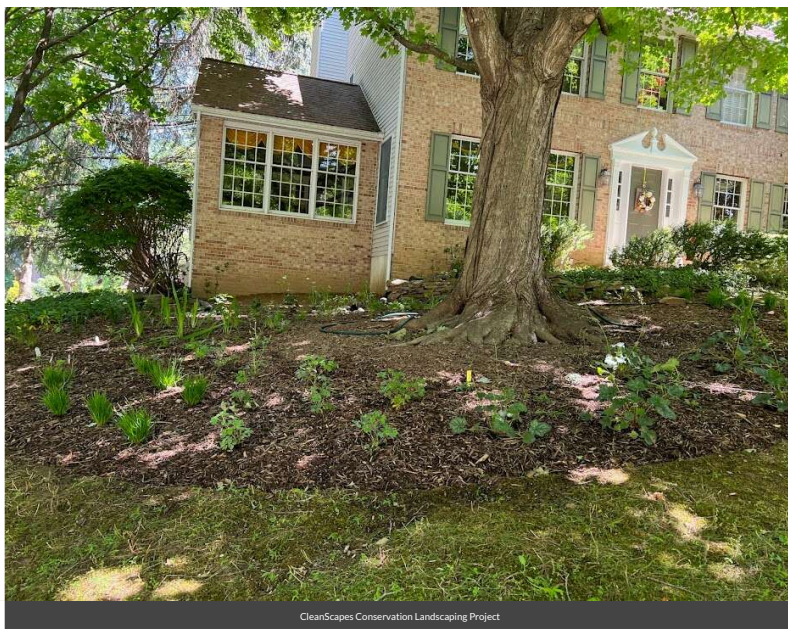
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden

- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Scout group with Spanish Habitat Sign



CleanScapes Conservation Landscaping Project

Education & Outreach

Our committee hosted 10 pollinator events last year, 7 during pollinator week, and 3 others. We kicked off the Spring with our inaugural Trees for Bees giveaway, where we gave out 1,000 trees and shrubs to Howard County residents and non-profits. All tree and shrub species are native to Maryland, acclimated to our climate, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. The species were specifically selected for their ability to provide pollen and nectar sources to native bees, as well as other pollinators. The species included Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Red Bud (*Cercis canadensis*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), American Plum (*Prunus americana*), Silky Willow (*Salix sericea*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), and Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*). During this event we also had a table set up with outreach materials and other giveaways, including native plant seed packets that were created in partnership with committee member Howard EcoWorks and Howard County Public Schools System's Student Employment Training Program. Following our Trees for Bees giveaway we launched new annual campaign, "Go Wild for

Violets” contest to educate residents about the importance of native groundcovers existing in lawns and reduce the frequency of mowing in early spring in order to provide floral resources to early emerging pollinators. The contest also aims to increase awareness about the insects that use violets as host plants as well as the variety of violet species found in Howard County. Another focus of this campaign is to improve public perception about and increase adoption of non-traditional lawns. Finally, this contest helps increase Howard County Bee City visibility, engage the community, and increase student involvement in Howard County Bee City. Contest categories include, “Violets in a Recipe”, “Violets in our Parks”, “Violets in a Garden or Yard”, and “Violet Artwork by a Child or Teen”. We had 34 people participate in the contest and gave out 15 prizes to participants. Howard County Bee City partnered with Dr. Clare Walker to host a workshop and guided tour at Robinson Nature center where participants learned about some of Maryland’s most common spring bees, where to look for them, and what they can do to help protect native bee species. During the hands-on presentation portion, they used specimens to discover how to distinguish bees from wasps and fly mimics. After the presentation, Dr. Walker led a guided walk where participants learned techniques for how to safely capture bees for close observation and field identification before release. For 2022 Pollinator Week our Committee hosted a range of activities where residents could learn about and celebrate pollinators. Events included Butterfly walks, hosted by our committee member from the Howard County Bird Club and Butterfly Survey. Participants successfully identified many butterfly species and learned more about the annual Butterfly Survey. Howard County Conservancy committee members hosted a Pollinator Fest where attendees learned about various pollinators at different stations set up along the pollinator trail as well as hands-on pollinator themed activities and games. Committee Member Lauren’s Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery put together Pollinator Powerhouse Plant packages and offered DIY Bee Puddler Crafts at the nursery during Pollinator Week. Other Pollinator Week activities include Story Time, Pollinator Story Walks, and Meadow Exploration Kits.

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

10

How many people attended those events (in total)?

906

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.

- **No**



Native Bee ID Workshop and Guided Walk



1st Place - Violet Artwork by a Child or Teen



Butterfly Walk

Policies & Practices

The purpose of this policy is to protect and enhance both natural and developed landscapes. These procedures define and strengthen the existing proactive approach to landscape management by strengthening current integrated pest management protocols and limiting the use of pesticides to the circumstances defined herein. To the extent allowed by law, Howard County shall implement sustainable land and building pesticide management practices on all County controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds that adheres to generally accepted integrated pest management practices and procedures, including thorough documentation and reporting of all pesticide applications. Howard County government employees required to possess a Maryland Pesticide Applicator's certification are required to attend an annual Maryland State approved recertification training. Non-certified staff, that handle pesticides are required to attend a County/State Pesticide Application training. Following training, staff shall be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. (b) Employees are also strongly encouraged to attend sustainable sites, landscaping, or similar trainings to better understand alternatives to pesticide application, as well as other approaches to reduce the need for applications.

3. Contractor Requirements: Contractors applying pesticides on County property shall adhere to the following requirements : Must possess a Maryland Pesticide Applicators License and submit a copy to the County Follow all Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations. Submit product label prior to application Review Maryland Pesticide Sensitivity List prior to application. Apply IPM principals and submit a copy of the Maryland pesticide application record post-application. Any submissions required above shall be made to the contract administrator that supervises the contract.

4. Management of Noxious Weeds as Required by State Law: All work done on County property as part of any program to control noxious weeds will be done in compliance with State law. The noxious weed program will submit an annual report to be included

with the reports from the Directors of Public Works and Recreation & Parks as specified in Subtitle I. Neonicotinoids, Glyphosate and Chlorpyrifos: The use of chlorpyrifos is prohibited on all County property. The use of neonicotinoids and glyphosate is prohibited on all County property with the exceptions of: (a) County property under agricultural lease; and (b) all work done under the County's cooperative agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the control and eradication of noxious weeds. Exemptions for the use of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, for other uses, may be granted by the Director of Recreation & Parks or Director of Public Works if a request is submitted in writing that identifies the proposed location of application and pesticide to be used and shows: (a) (b) The use is to prevent or combat an infestation of a species that can only be controlled by using neonicotinoids or glyphosate; and An alternate pesticide will not provide effective and safe control of the pest; and 3 POLICY & PROCEDURE (C) The benefits of saving a species population in the County by applying pesticides outweigh the potential negative impacts of treating with neonicotinoids or glyphosate at this location. Such exemptions must be granted in writing. 5. Agricultural Lease: Agricultural land managers and their subcontractors shall adhere to the following requirements when utilizing restricted use pesticides on County property: (a) (b) (C) (d) Adhere to the Conservation Plan written by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and approved by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Must possess a Maryland pesticide applicator's license and submit a copy to the County Lease Administrator. When available, agricultural land managers are encouraged to use alternatives to neonicotinoids and glyphosate in their farming operations. Agricultural land managers shall provide an annual pesticide use report to include a listing of pesticide uses by location, pesticide name, and amount of concentrate used (in ounces) for the past 2 years, to include any noxious weed treatments, as well as, pesticide application protocols, which will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks lease administrator. (c) REPORTING The Directors of the Departments of Recreation & Parks and Public Works will each present an annual report to the County Executive (due April 22 for the previous calendar year) that contains the following: (a) A listing of pesticide uses by location, pesticide name, and amount of concentrate used (in ounces) for the past 2 years, to include any noxious weed and guardrail maintenance treatments, (b) (C) An explanation of why any pesticide had more than a 15% increase or decrease in usage over the 2 years reported, A list and copies of all exemption requests approved and denied, for the reporting period and a comparison to the year prior, 4 POLICY & PROCEDURE (d) A narrative describing staff trainings, alternatives considered, education initiatives, successes and challenges. If applicable, any forecasted needs or adaptive management strategies anticipated based on potential environmental or situational changes should be included in the narrative, and (e) A narrative explaining plans for future pesticide use and reduction in coordination with the Office of Community Sustainability. (d) POLICY REVIEW AND MODIFICATION This policy shall be evaluated biennially and updated by the Office of Community Sustainability in cooperation with other departments as new environmentally sensitive products and methods are developed. Howard County will continue to follow Integrated Pest Management practices as updated and recommended by a recognized authority. Modifications to this policy must be approved by the County Executive

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

- **Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan**

- 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)
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

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.

In 2021 our committee worked with BeeCatur, GA to create a Howard County version of their “Mosquito Spraying Kills Bees” handout and in 2022 we printed ten thousand copies to distribute in our community. In fall of 2022 we established a Pesticide Reduction Subcommittee to develop targeted outreach and education campaigns and events in 2023. We are excited to focus more on pesticide reduction efforts in 2023!

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
 There are two County policy related initiatives that further protect pollinators but are not specific to pesticides. The first is the inclusion of our Howard County Bee City commitments in the County’s General Plan. This is the first time the Plan has been updated since becoming a Bee City, and we are excited that this is officially part of the County’s General Plan. The County is also updating their Climate Action and Resilience Plan and have embedded pollinator habitat creation, enhancement, education, and outreach into its Strategies and Actions.

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: [Pesticide-Use-on-County-Property-rev.-10.22.19.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Howard County Native Plants.xlsx](#)

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers During Coronavirus.pdf](#)

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/>

<p>Department of</p>  <p>County Administration</p>	<p>HOWARD COUNTY</p> <p>Policy and Procedure</p> <p>Title: Pesticide Use on County Property</p>	<p>Number: 100.18</p> <p>Prepared By: Office of the CAO</p> <p>Initial Release Date: 10/4/2019</p> <p>Revised: 10/22/2019</p>
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Policy

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Basic Procedure

(a) DEFINITIONS

1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM): means an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of unwanted pests and plants through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant plant varieties. The use of pesticides is minimized, and the least toxic option is used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines. Treatments are made with the goal of controlling only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.
2. Sustainable Land & Building Pesticide Management:
 - (a) Eliminates or mitigates economic and health damage caused by pests.
 - (b) Uses one or more of the following: (i) IPM; (ii) site or pest inspections; (iii) pest population monitoring and prevention strategies; (iv) an evaluation of the need for pest control; and, (v) one or more pest prevention and management methods, such as: habitat modifications, sanitation practices, entryway closures, structural repair,

Learn More

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/hocopollinator@gmail.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/HCbecityUSA>



Committee Photo 12/2022