

Bee City USA - Lynchburg

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

A generous landowner has agreed to continue 'low mowing' in order to keep the meadow established on his vacant property which we call the McKenna fields. In just a couple of years, the land has grown into a beautiful meadow of natural grasses dotted with native wildflowers that have grown in on their own with no need for planting, seeding or any extra care. It is truly a pollinator haven of almost 3 acres! Boys and Girls Club youth participated in the planting of a pollinator garden at the Boys and Girls Club center in Lynchburg, Virginia. A member of Blue Ridge Conservation (BRC) helped manage, design, educate and execute the project. The garden was placed on the side of a commercial building in an urban city location. Old City Cemetery Native Plant Pollinator Trail in Lynchburg was created and enhanced using 540 plants that were supplied by proceeds from the Hillside Garden Club. The Lynchburg Garden Club provided funds for educational signs. Hillside and Lynchburg Garden clubs comprise the members of the Blue Ridge Conservation (BRC), whose purpose is to provide education and programming to enhance conservation and pollinator habitat in Lynchburg. The City of Lynchburg's Buildings and Grounds Department added 1600 square feet of white clover and wildflower seeds to Riverside Park. Parks & Recreation is encouraging Building & Grounds to leave pollinator habitat gardens alone and natural, where and when possible, to provide nesting and overwintering protection for pollinators. A newly established pollinator garden was left untouched by grounds maintenance last spring and by mid-summer it was full, blooming, beautiful and full of pollinators with no sign that nothing had been done as far as clean up or maintenance to the habitat area! Signage was, once again, added to Riverside park. It provides education on the ground nesting bees as well as links to further information. Pollinator habitat was established in the form of vegetable plants at the community center gardens in Lynchburg Virginia. These gardens provide food for both humans and pollinators. When possible, the importance of pollinators is explained to visitors in the garden areas.

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

13

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

195950

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

68

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Old City Cemetery Native Plant Pollinator Trail



Old City Cemetery Native Plant Pollinator Trail

Education & Outreach

Amazement Square's 'Bee in the Know' and 'Pollinator Garden' consists of two 360-degree observation hives. One is a paper mache hive created by a local artist, Sally Diniord, featuring motorized components, the other showcases live honeybees. Children can dress up as a bee, collect pollen to take to their hive, build different types of bees on a hive table, read various bee facts and read bee books on the log bench. There are three honeybee colonies outside and a pollinator garden that will be certified in Spring/Summer of 2023. The pollinator garden is also a teaching environment for school groups and museum programs. Committee Member Hosted. Blue Ridge Conservation (BRC) participated in providing education and demonstration of pollinator habitats at the Sedalia Festival. BRC distributed guidance material and referenced online education for starting and maintaining pollinator gardens during Arbor Day and Pollinator Week 2022. BRC provided an educational display at the Garden Day 2022 site promoting both pollinators and pollinator gardens, emphasizing native plantings. BRC held a 'Pollinators and the Home Garden' educational slide show on how to establish and maintain pollinator gardens, encouraging native plants be used in the landscape. Committee Member Hosted. Heidi James, chairman of Lynchburg's Bee City Working Committee and former chairman of Horticulture for the Garden Club of Virginia has been giving talks around the state to encourage other cities to become Bee City USA affiliates. To date, Heidi has been able to enlist Danville, Roanoke, Martinsville, Richmond and Fauquier County (Warrenton). She will be meeting with Fredericksburg, Onancock and Alexandria in the coming months. Her goal is to enlist as many Virginia cities as possible in order to create a pollinator pathway or an "All Virginia Pollinator Plan" to maximize the impact that can be achieved by Bee Cities across the Commonwealth. Committee Member. Educational signage is placed around Riverside Park annually where hundreds of ground bees have established nesting sites. Committee Member.

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

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

34395

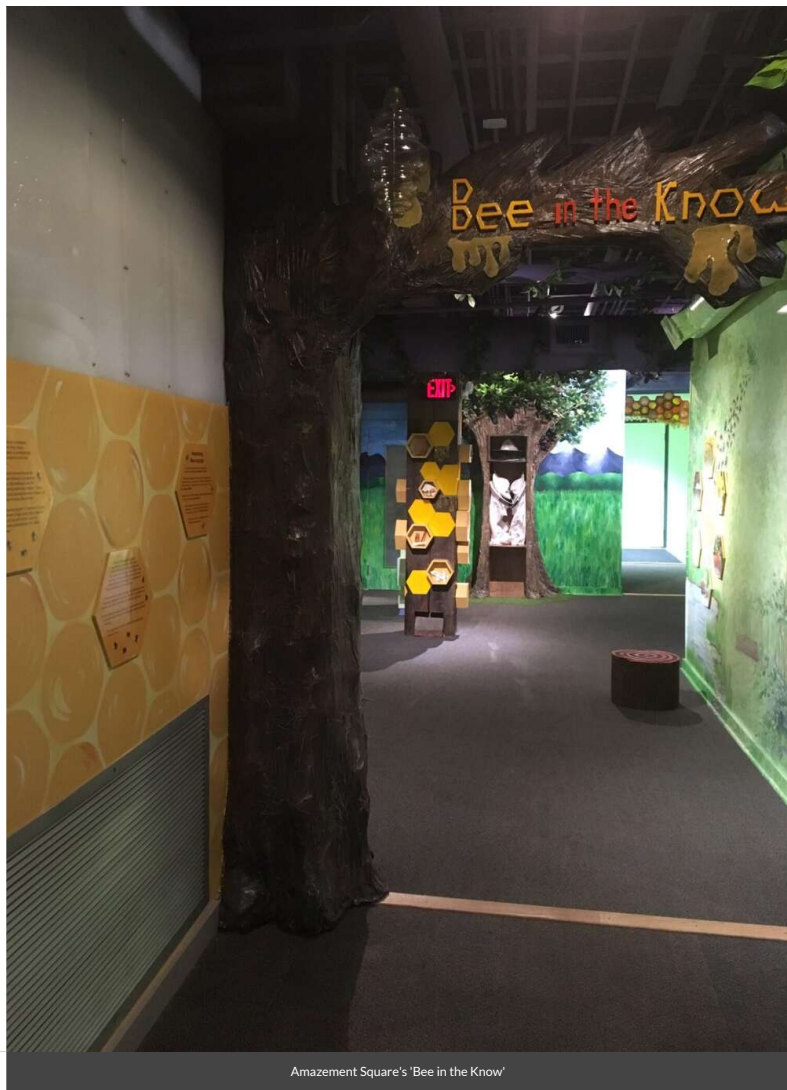
How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

4

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



Amazement Square's 'Bee in the Know'



Amazement Square's 'Bee in the Know'

Policies & Practices

Policies & Practices IPM – Athletic fields: Our Parks & Recreation Department has begun to spot pull/remove weeds rather than spraying the whole area unnecessarily on our athletic fields. We have moved to 100% Liquid for our preemergent applications. Granular application is literally like rolling dice, you never know how the granule will fall when it hits the ground. Liquid is a much more controlled method of application – spraying when wind speeds are between 3-7 mph. We have begun over-seeding warm season grass with cool season grasses. This practice keeps weed pressure down resulting in less need for spraying weeds on athletic turf. The over-seeding also acts as a buffer/filter to catch more pollutants in rain water runoff before it reaches our streams and creeks. Parks & Recreation Community Center Teaching Gardens: Weed seal has been installed around our community center garden fence areas to keep weeds at a minimum. Although weeds are hand pulled in these areas, the hope is, if successful weed suppression is achieved, this practice could

be applied at athletic fields and other areas where weeds are currently being sprayed which would suppress weed growth without chemical use. An IPM plan has been written and submitted previously. Plans on implementing policies have begun with maintenance crews, Public Works and Parks & Recreation.

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)

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 your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
James River Buffer Program – Peaks View and Ivy Creek Riparian Buffer Plan: Program goals: Extending the riparian buffer around a section of Ivy and Black Water Creeks by planting native species and managing invasives. Provide an educational opportunity for visitors to engage in the project and learn more about forest and watershed health. Have the planting take place on Earth Day to be a part of Lynchburg Parks & Recreation’s “Week of Green.”

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:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants of Central Virginia latest.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Source of Native Plants in the Central Virginia Area.docx](#)

Learn More

<https://www.lynchburgparksandrec.com/bee-city-usa/>