

Bee City USA - Manassas

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Our Beautification Committee planted a pollinator garden under a windmill at Annaburg Manor, a historic site in our city. These volunteers gathered on a Saturday last September to plant pollinator friendly plants (ie: butterfly weed, coneflower, Rudbeckia among other plants) in this parklike atmosphere.

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

3

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

915

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

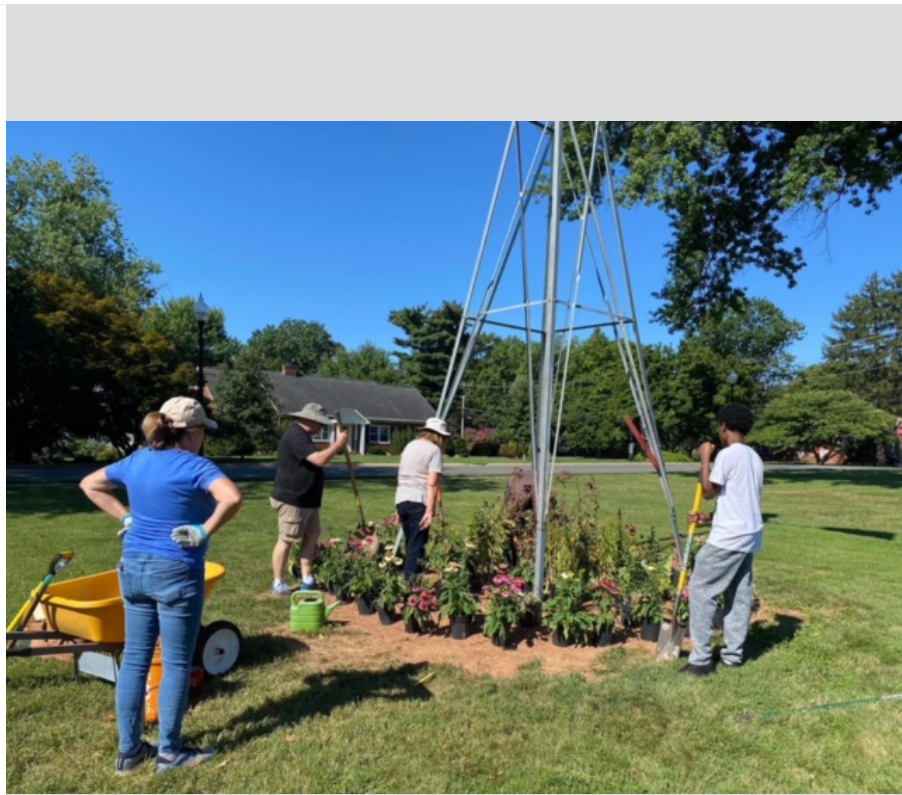
14

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



Perennial native garden planted at Annaburg Manor



Committee members preparing the perennial bed for planting

Education & Outreach

City of Manassas Bee Festival held June 25, 2022 at Liberia House, a historic site within the City.. It was a celebration featuring bee keeping demonstrations, educational material and activities, bee product sales and native plant sales. Approximately 2500 people attended this festival. A bee keeping demonstration was held at a different time as an educational activity. Our Beautification Committee planted a pollinator garden at Annaburg Manor, another historic site in the city.

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

3

How many people attended those events (in total)?

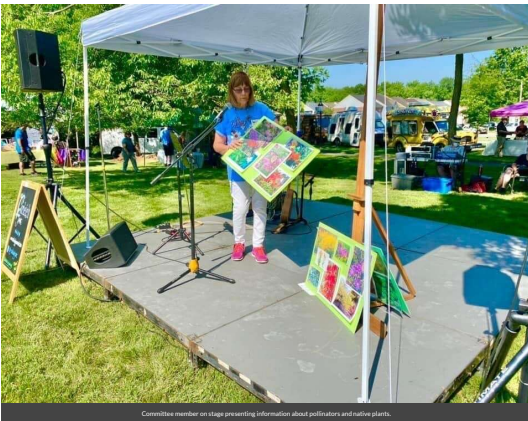
2550

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.

- Yes



Committee member on stage presenting information about pollinators and native plants.



Children learning how bees benefit our environment.



The Lifelong Learning Co-op with children from the City of Manassas came to the Apiary at Liberia House.

Policies & Practices

It is the policy of our Horticulture and Grounds Departments to follow the IPM principles. As we cover a large area of many different kinds of landscapes, we do use some pesticides to control insects, disease and weeds. However, pest threshold levels are checked and pesticides are used only as needed and when there is no other alternative. The use of mulch and hand pulling is incorporated as a first method of weed control. When initiating new plantings, we choose plant material that is relatively pest free and do our best to use native species. Hand removal of insects is the first choice such as bagworms, aphids or Wax Scale to name a few. Knocking insects off plant material with a hose has been used. If need be, the use of horticultural oils or pyrethrums are our choice. If the plant has a persistent pest problem many times we will replace it if possible with a more insect free and disease resistant plant. We have also found that proper plant care eliminates many pest problems which leads to decreased pesticide use. Correct mulch levels, organic fertilizers and proper pruning methods. One bed had a serious spider mite problem. It had been over mulched. We removed the excess mulch, applied horticultural oil in late spring and spider mite populations were reduced by seventy five percent in one year.

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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>)

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.

Our Beautification Committee has had a booth at several events last year providing fliers, information and discussion with our citizens regarding native plants and their care, insect pests and natural prevention. This includes looking for egg masses and scraping them off tree surfaces or removing insects by hand. Also beneficial insects such as Lady Beetles and Lacewings are included.

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

All City personnel who apply pesticides are Virginia State Certified Commercial Applicators or Registered Technicians. They are trained using the IPM strategy and proper use and handling of pesticides. Again, pesticides are used only as a last resort.

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?

All applicators and technicians attend Virginia State certified recertification training courses. They also attend other courses such as the Green Industry Field Day in Washington, DC. Employees learned about native plants, perennials beneficial insects in the landscape.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan 02-2023.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Meadow flowers-Va. natives.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Vendors 1-30-23.docx](#)

Dean Park No Mow Zone



Reconnecting with Natural Areas: Helping Pollinators



Visiting the parks in the City of Manassas means connecting with nature. To increase habitat diversity and help pollinators and native plants, we have reduced our mowing to improve your experience with nature.

What may appear to be messy areas, are actually native wildflower and warm season grass fields or forests beginning to grow, abuzz with pollinators and a diversity of other insects and animals.



Transformed areas now become outdoor classrooms, quiet places to relax, and great photography and research opportunities.



By reducing mowed areas, we are creating colorful wildflower fields, supporting pollinators, controlling soil erosion, creating food and shelter for wildlife, and saving on lawn maintenance time and money.



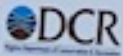
Be on the look out for this symbol to see where Virginia State Parks are working to create habitat diversity.



Inspired?

Make small changes at home...

- Mow less frequently and let grass get a little taller to decrease water need, wear and tear on lawn mowers, and the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by burning fossil fuels.
- Stop mowing along wood lines and allow nature to create a soft edge along the forest to increase habitat for songbirds that like to nest on forest edges.
- Plant pollinator gardens at home with native wildflowers like goldenrod, black-eyed Susans, and milkweed. This will increase wildlife diversity, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies, insects, songbirds, and other wildlife.
- Create rain gardens in naturally wet areas with water loving plants like swamp milkweed and Joe-Pye weed to absorb water runoff, prevent the pooling of water, and support pollinators.



Questions or to report a concern, please contact: www.manassascity.org/leisure
703-368-1873 | Police non-emergency line: 703-257-8000



Learn More

<http://www.manassasva.gov>

lotten@manassasva.gov

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

<https://www.instagram.com/cityofmanassas>

<https://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas>



Committee members designing winter baskets