

Bee City USA - Mequon

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

MNP is 510 acres of land that is converting the agricultural fields back into the historic prairies, wetlands, and forests. Staff and volunteers remove invasive species, plant hundreds of native tree and shrub species, and spread native prairie and wetland seed over the property. A local elementary school came to MNP and planted 4,000 wetland plant plugs in the newest restoration project area. The restoration area was 40 acres in size and was planted in native tall and short grass prairie species. MNP worked with the Sunrise Rotary Club in Mequon to plant a native pollinator garden in one of the local parks. MNP also had educational content through social media posts, workshops, and fliers on the importance of pollinators and how to help them.

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

5

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

1750000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

300

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...)
- 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

- Other



Rotary and volunteers planting the pollinator garden



Milkweed and monarch caterpillar



Monarch with native plantings

Education & Outreach

Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) hosted two monarch tagging events. Citizens were able to catch and tag monarch butterflies as they made their migration to Mexico. This data is then uploaded to Monarch Watch. MNP staff also led native plant hikes as well as invasive species workshops, all free to the public. The Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary planted a pollinator garden in the City of Mequon. They also promoted Operation Pollination to the community, getting people to sign the pledge to make pollinator friendly habitats in their yards. Both the City of Mequon and MNP are partners with the Rotary in this initiative. The City of Mequon hosted their annual Arbor Day event. Those that attend received free native tree seedlings. The inside observation hive inside the MNP Education Center was also installed. The MNP Bee Club continued to meet monthly and had a 4H program as well. Most of the club members have their hives at the MNP apiary.

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)?

785

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

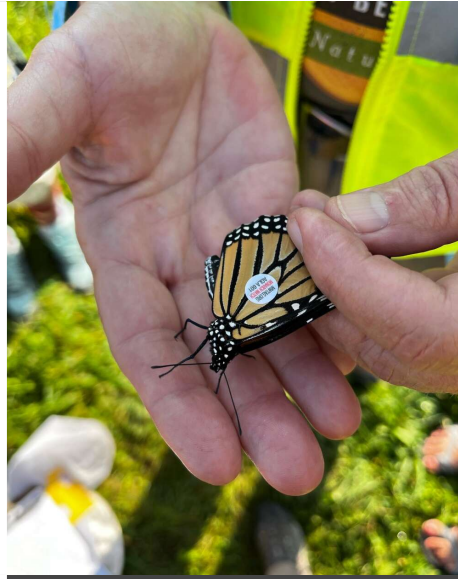
5

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



Plant hike, led by MNP staff member



Tagged monarch butterfly



Planting the pollinator garden, Operation Pollination

Policies & Practices

Invasive species control efforts uses best management practices to ensure proper control without harm to non-target species. Using targeted spot mowing and spot treating with herbicides ensures control of target species and limits revisiting sensitive habitats.

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

- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

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.

Through Operation Pollination, informational brochures have content on how the public can help pollinators in their yards. One informational piece says to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.

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

MNP minimizes the use of pesticides on the property. With all the plantings MNP staff and volunteers plant throughout the property, the plants help filter any sort of pesticide runoff that would end up in the waterways. Broad applications of herbicides are rarely used, unless warranted against noxious weeds.

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?

The MNP staff holds a variety of licenses for pesticide management. They also attend annual continuing education programs (webinars, conferences, etc).

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [JN Native Guide .pdf](#)



Mowing the prairie

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