

Bee City USA - Norcross

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

1. In 2022, our Bee City Committee and local volunteers broke ground on our City Hall Pollinator Garden. 2. BCC, SNC, and VWC member Jacquelyn Morgan led volunteers to “Clean up, Recycle, Reuse” event at Norcross Elementary School Gardens. 3. BCC, G4GC and NGC member Tixie Fowler led a weekly afterschool gardening program at Summerour Middle School, organized for the city the Sweep the Hooch event that removed Privet for the Rossie Brundage Park, secured 10 trees for planting in the local forest preserve. 4. G4GC planted and maintained a Monarch Butterfly Nursery at Summerour Middle school with native Milkweed 5. SNC/BCC member Jacquelyn Morgan led volunteers with new garden beds at Rhodes Jordan Park

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?

7000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

87

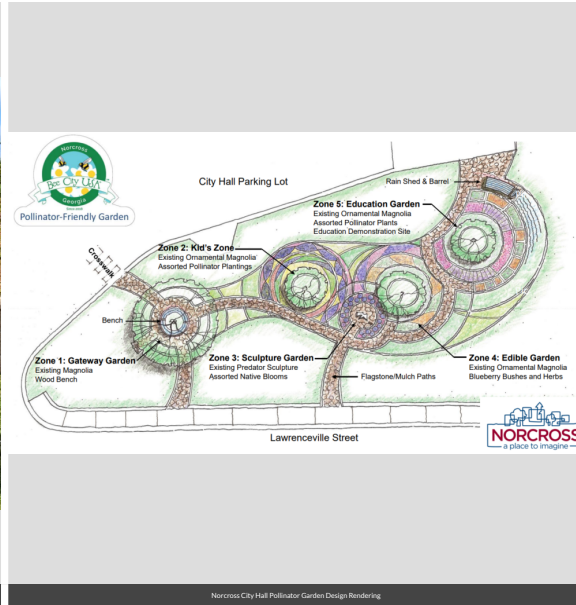
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale

- School garden
- Other



Mayor Newton with SNC/BCC member Jacquelyn Morgan tending to garden bed at Norcross Elementary with Mayor Newton



Norcross City Hall Pollinator Garden Design Rendering



SNC/BCC member Susan Burbala at City of Norcross Planting Day at City Hall

Education & Outreach

In 2022, the City of Norcross supported and hosted a variety of pollinator conservation and education event in partnership with City commissions, local schools, churches, and organizations, including annual Pollinator Education Events as well as our first “Planting for Pollinators” Workshops which involved a planting day where we broke ground on our City Hall Pollinator Garden. Our partners included: Bee City Committee (BCC) Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC), Norcross Community Market (NCM), Norcross Garden Club (NGC), Norcross Elementary School (NES), Discovery Garden Park Board (DGP), Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission (PG&T), the Gwinnett County school Board, Norcross Elementary school Garden Group, Victory World Church Gardening Group, Norcross Elementary Garden Club, UGA Extension, Gardens for Growing Community (Norcross-based nonprofit, G4GC) and community volunteers. Below is a list of special, annual, and ongoing events facilitated by the City and community partners in 2022. 1. Planting for Pollinators Workshop #1 where residents learn to plan out their gardens at home. 2. Planting for Pollinators Workshop #2 had BCC member and Gwinnett Master Gardener Jackie Morgan and Phoenix Gardens farmer Gwendolyn Washington share tips for successfully seeding wildflowers, ornamentals and vegetables. 3. Planting for Pollinators Workshop #3 where we broke ground on Norcross City Hall Pollinator Garden. 4. The City hosted their annual Pollinator Census at Discovery Garden Park 5. Norcross Elementary School held a Pollinator Census at school garden. 6. NES and VWC Volunteer Garden Day at Norcross Elementary School where they tended to the school gardens and upgraded their

outdoor classroom. 7. Annual Enchanted Forest event was held at Johnson Dean Forest Preserve where kids learn about compost, pollinators, and forests. 8. Pollinator Themed Norcross Community Market 9. Seed/Plant Starter Giveaway at Norcross Community Market 10. City of Norcross Employee Workshop with UGA extension special guest speaker 11. BCC hosts classes at Summerour Middle School Pollinator Garden 12. Beaver Ruin Elementary Planting at their Pollinator Garden 13. Facebook Posts during National Pollinator Week 14. BCC, and Norcross Community Members participated in recording of a Pollinator Book Reading to students at Norcross Elementary. 15. Norcross holds a "Sustainable Storytime" at local library and reads books on recycling and pollinators. 16. SNC and BCC members hosts a Rain barrel presentation at Norcross Community market. 17. City of Norcross receives Georgia Municipal Association's Visionary City Award for Pollinator Education efforts and initiatives. 18. NES staff have a Garden Day and turn old pallets into vertical gardens at Norcross Elementary 19. PG&T was awarded a grant to develop conceptual plans for rehabilitating a GA Power ROW into an extended pollinator meadow with a soft walking trail and benches. This concept is being incorporated into the PG&T Master Plan which will take a comprehensive focus on the city's ecological assets and identify a viable urban framework for protecting, restoring and sustaining Norcross' ecological character 20. NGC and G4GC worked with local Girl Scouts to plant over 10 native trees in the City's local nature preserve. 21. PG&T and the City's Tree Board worked with City staff to facilitate concept plans for an entrance to the City's forest preserve that will include a pollinator meadow and stormwater mitigation berms planted with native grasses and wildflowers. 22. The City hosted a Chinese Privet Pull, engaging over 40 volunteers to hand-pull privet and improve habitat along the creek at Rossie Brundage Park. 23. The City introduced native edibles in a passive park to develop it into an Edible Food Forest, with native blueberries and nut-bearing trees. The site was also over-planted with native clovers to begin reduction of the lawn monoculture. 24. SNC/BCC member Jacquelyn Morgan led volunteers with new garden beds at Rhodes Jordan Park – 10

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

24

How many people attended those events (in total)?

731

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

3

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.

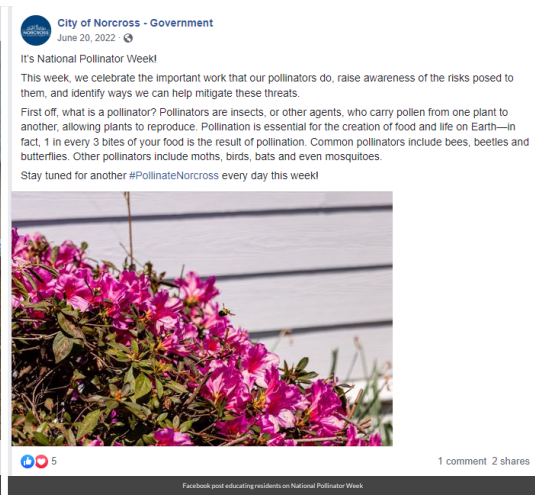
- **No**



Pollinator & Insect Education Booth at the Norcross Community Market helping kids reduce fear of bugs



Inaugural City of Norcross "Planting for Pollinators" Workshop at City Hall



Facebook post educating residents on National Pollinator Week

Policies & Practices

The City in Norcross abides by the Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM) to "maintain healthy attractive plants, maximize resistance to pests, and out-compete weeds." The City achieves this goal through close monitoring of landscape areas to identify problematic plants and pests before they become a larger, more challenging issue. The City seeks to reduce the need for targeted pests management by "fostering soil...pruning to remove infected or infested branches and shoots... mulching soil surface to reduce weeds" and remaining resilient to disease and inspect prone as well as replacing those plants with "those better suited to site and microclimate." Through these preventative non-pesticide methods, the City can protect both the target and surrounding area. These tactics can best seen in Pinnacle Park, a naturalized green space in southeast Norcross. Once overrun with invasive species, the park now features all native, draught resistant plantings that require minimal maintenance, no fertilization, and support native pollinators and other wildlife. The area utilized by public features, native grasses and ground cover. The park also features sections of federally protected wetlands that are left untouched with multilingual educational signage. Pinnacle Park and the landscaping strategies act as a model for other landscaping projects within the City.

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)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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.

The BCC facilitates community conversation about pollinator friendly pest management including reducing the use of pesticides in residential and business areas, on social media, through multilingual public signage, and workshops. Additionally, the BCC provides educational pamphlets at community events, including the Norcross Community Market. The BCC introduces concepts of sustainable, pollinator-friendly landscaping to Norcross youth school gardens. The gardens act as outdoor classrooms where BCC lead lessons and hands-on activities to teach students about the importance of pollinators and how to foster environments that support them. The BCC maintains an active voice on social media. Posts include informational blurbs, resources and promotion of pollinator related events. The BCC promotes local events and events held by other organizations throughout the metro-Atlanta area, thereby encouraging these ideas beyond the city limits of Norcross.

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

The City's Integrated Pest Management is the primary guide used to ensure that all pest and weed control methods utilized in City landscaping "have minimal negative affects on all but the pest and that protect air and water quality." The City incorporates these values and guidelines and into other City policies regarding new development and redevelopment projects. For example, the City offers a 25% building density bonus for developments which include native plantings, rain gardens, bio-swales, and other sustainable design elements and green building materials. Additionally, the City's official Architectural and Site Design promote native plantings for development projects.

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 Bee City Committee and staff liaison continue to research and learn more about sustainable landscaping practices as well as stay up to date on the IPM programs and plans adopted by other Bee City USA affiliates to ensure the policy adopted by the City of Norcross meets the standard held by Bee City USA. Additionally, three of the BCC members are Master Gardeners who maintain their certification through continuing education and volunteer efforts.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [EXCERPTED FROM NORCROSS MTCE SPEC.pdf](#)

<https://www.norcrossga.net/DocumentCenter/View/4507/EXCERPTED-FROM-NORCROSS-MTCE-SPEC>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>



Multilingual signage at Pinnacle Park describing sustainable landscape practices that support pollinators.

Learn More

<https://www.norcrossga.net/2005/10418/Pollinators-Bee-City-USA>
sustainable@norcrossga.net

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



Bee City USA visit to Norcross City Hall Pollinator Garden with City of Norcross Mayor, Craig Newton, Staff, Bee City Committee members and friends