

Bee City USA - Raleigh

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Over 30 acres of new habitat were created at Wooten Meadows and Dorothea Dix Parks, in addition to work done to enhance habitat at over 33 park locations. Wooten Meadows opened to the public in May 2022. This 21 acre park is a combination of recreation and a planted wetland that mitigates storm water runoff and provides habitats for unique plant and animal species. The sunflower fields were the same as the previous year. We had about 8 acres in sunflower fields in 2022 at Dorothea Dix Park. We presented a report on Monarch Waystations to the Parks Recreation and Greenway advisory board, Sustainability, Wildlife and Urban Trees Committee in September 2022. In 2022, Parks Maintenance added 4 Monarch Waystations to bring the City to a total of 31. All four of those installations utilized around 50 volunteers, including the North Hollow Garden Club, Gardeners of Wake County, Toshiba Corporation, and the Rotary Club of West Raleigh. In 2021, Raleigh had 2.5 acres of wildflower plots along the City's greenway system. In 2022, we added 1.5 acres for a total of 4 acres. Volunteer groups planted seedlings, trees, gardens, and natural areas and did mulching and removed invasive species throughout 2022.

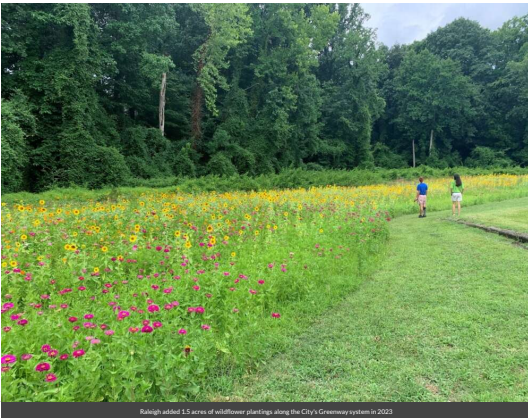
How many volunteers helped with those projects?

1479

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
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- 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
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Raleigh added 1.5 acres of wildflower plantings along the City's Greenway system in 2022



Raleigh now has 31 Monarch Waystations



We squeeze in pollinator planting wherever possible! This one is located in the middle of Downtown Raleigh.

Education & Outreach

In the past year, the City of Raleigh has worked with other Bee Cities and Bee Campuses in Wake County to develop a collaborative network called the Wake County Swarm. The Swarm meets quarterly to discuss efforts, identify opportunities for collaboration and share lessons learned. In December of 2022, the Swarm hosted its first in-person meeting, bringing together staff across our jurisdictions, as well as community groups, educators and other municipalities considering joining Bee City. In this meeting, we discussed best practices in pesticide reduction, habitat expansion and outreach and education. The group plans to meet several times during the coming year to tour each others' facilities, take deeper dives on other topics, and coordinate an annual event calendar. Other events in 2022 included: Moore Square Pollinator Day with hundreds of attendees The Honey Fair at Bee Loved Community Garden in October (approximately 250 attendees) Falling for Local and the Sunflower Outreach Event at Dix Park each attracting thousands of attendees The City and its partners also offer myriad educational opportunities on gardening, the importance of native species, invasive species removal, and pollinator habitats. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department offered 39 courses for residents of all ages on topics ranging from seed science, to bug safaris, to building bee houses. Nearly 1500 residents attended these courses in 2022. For 2022 Pollinator Week, the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department hosted a number of community activities, including classes on planting home pollinator gardens, tours of the City of Raleigh greenhouse, a BioBlitz and wildflower tour. Details are available on our website <https://raleighnc.gov/parks/pollinator-week-june-20-26-2022> The City's Office of Sustainability created an educational video highlighting all of the work done across City departments to expand pollinator habitats and the resources and grants available for community pollinator projects. The video can be viewed here (

<https://youtu.be/MuWYSZO52UY>) and it was shared widely on the City social media accounts. In fact it was our most viewed video of the month of June 2022!

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



Parks Staff are buzzing about Pollinator Day in Moore Square!



Small group discussing outreach and engagement during the first Wake County Swarm in-person meeting at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center

Policies & Practices

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) promotes environmentally sensitive landscape pest and vegetation management by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and reducing overall pesticide use while preserving landscape assets and protecting the health and safety of the public and our employees. The PRCR Department has adopted IPM as a comprehensive approach to pest management including biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical controls. The policy regulates the use and application of pesticides on the landscape and grounds of city parks, greenways, highway shoulders, medians, and any other property owned, controlled, or managed by the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department. We also have an invasive species page with more information and links for the public about our program and ways for people to get involved. A new initiative for the City of

Raleigh this year is to transition some Parks' maintenance equipment to electric. Recent studies suggest that gasoline-powered equipment and the associated emissions or air pollutants react with plant scent molecules and can modify their chemical makeup and odor. The scent changes that are caused by this reaction will decrease the concentration requiring bees to spend more time looking for food and thereby decreasing their foraging and pollinating efficiencies. Our pesticide policy is one of the toughest policies in any municipality. It is restrictive to the types of pesticides we use and limits the use of pesticides to our Parks maintenance standards. No pesticide is allowed that carries 'Danger' signal word, and no restricted use pesticides are permitted. We don't spray insecticides with few exceptions: 1) Fire ant control in certain use-areas only; 2) Greenhouse production, which is entirely organic and; 3) some limited turf treatment on Athletic Fields for Army Worms and then only if they occur. It is also restrictive who is allowed to apply pesticides to individuals that have achieved qualified applicator status which includes the following: 1) eight hours in-house training 2) eight hours of spill management training (HAZWOPR) with annual refreshers and 3) licensure by the NC Department of Agriculture, which includes an exam and maintenance of Continuing Education Credits. This is above and beyond the State requirement for pesticide application. All qualified applicators are required to undergo annual inspections of their application equipment and pesticide storage. All pesticide applications are documented in our online work order system with the following information: name of applicator, equipment used, amount, target, bottle number.

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**
- **Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics 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.

The City of Raleigh promotes Pollinator Lawns that are low maintenance open areas where plants can bloom prior to mowing. We encourage Healthy Landscapes by using best management practices such as composting, mulching, proper watering, and using the right plant in the right place. The City also prioritizes planting native plants and creating Monarch Waystations in our parks, and encourages community members to do the same thing in their home gardens or community.

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

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:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



The City of Raleigh greenhouse is one of the very limited locations where any pesticides are used. At the greenhouse we use only organic pesticides.

[Learn More](#)

