

Bee City USA - Ridgewood

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please see above. We started a new initiative called 1,000 acres. The goal is to get 1,000 acres of suburban lawns pledging to support pollinators by doing at least five things in their yards. Last year, we had 60 people sign up and register.

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?

217800

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

25

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden
- Other



Education & Outreach

Last year was a great year for Ridgewood Bee City. Our Library held its annual pollinator reading and activity day for children. It's a great event and every child that attended got to pollinator themed craft to do and take home. It is one of best attended events. Second, we held a pollinator event in our ever expanding butterfly and sensory garden. There were activities and crafts for the children, as the garden was expanded to include musical installations and additional plantings. We also started a new initiative called 1,000 Acres. This program is designed to get residents to sign up and pledge that they will do at least five things in their yard that will benefit pollinators. The ultimate goal is to have 1,000 acres of

suburban yards as members. This was launched and has gotten off to a fine start. Our green team planted a pollinator garden at Travell Elementary school. Additionally, the children learned about bees and their importance to the environment. Our Parks and Rec dept. offered our residents a program to learn about bees and other pollinators. The event included a look inside a real beehive. Residents had to sign up for the program and were able to learn what they can do to help the bees.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

350

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.*

- Yes



Policies & Practices

We are consistently educating the public about native plants and avoiding pesticides. Our various outreach programs include the high school, the library, our village green team, the conservancy, and the parks and rec dept. Additionally, we are vocal in our community and with the village council on the need to be green.

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)
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides 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>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants 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.

Our parks and rec dept. is working with the village grounds people to think more environmentally and find ways to use more eco-friendly equipment.

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

Yes, we are working on developing new ordinances that will impact the use of gas powered leaf blowers. The goal is limit when they can be used, with the goal to help pollinators and other wildlife by letting their habitat just be.

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?

Our Green Ridgewood board provides info to its members about various state-sponsored educational events they can attend. Additionally, Green Ridgewood takes the info it learns and provides it to the Village council.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Learn More

ridgewoodbees.com