

Bee City USA - Sandy Springs

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Sandy Springs is enhancing its public parks with native plant species that support pollinators. The bioretention area in the Marsh Creen Rain Garden was restored with a variety of plants including flowering perennials and shrubs such as tickseed, bee balm, cardinal flower and sweet pepperbush. At Windsor Meadows Park, a low-lying area was converted from struggling lawn to a wet habitat where tadpoles can be found. Green and gold, Carolina allspice and beautyberry are showcased. The last pollinator habitat created is at Allen Road Park. In conjunction with stormwater management upgrades, a small bioretention area was planted with butterfly weed, black-eyed Susan and buttonbush. Finally, an Eagle Scout coordinated the planting of two dozen native azaleas at by the main entrance to Lost Corner as her Service Project. Additionally, the City actively controls invasive plant species in all its parks, and partners annually with Trees Atlanta to plant native trees across the City.

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?

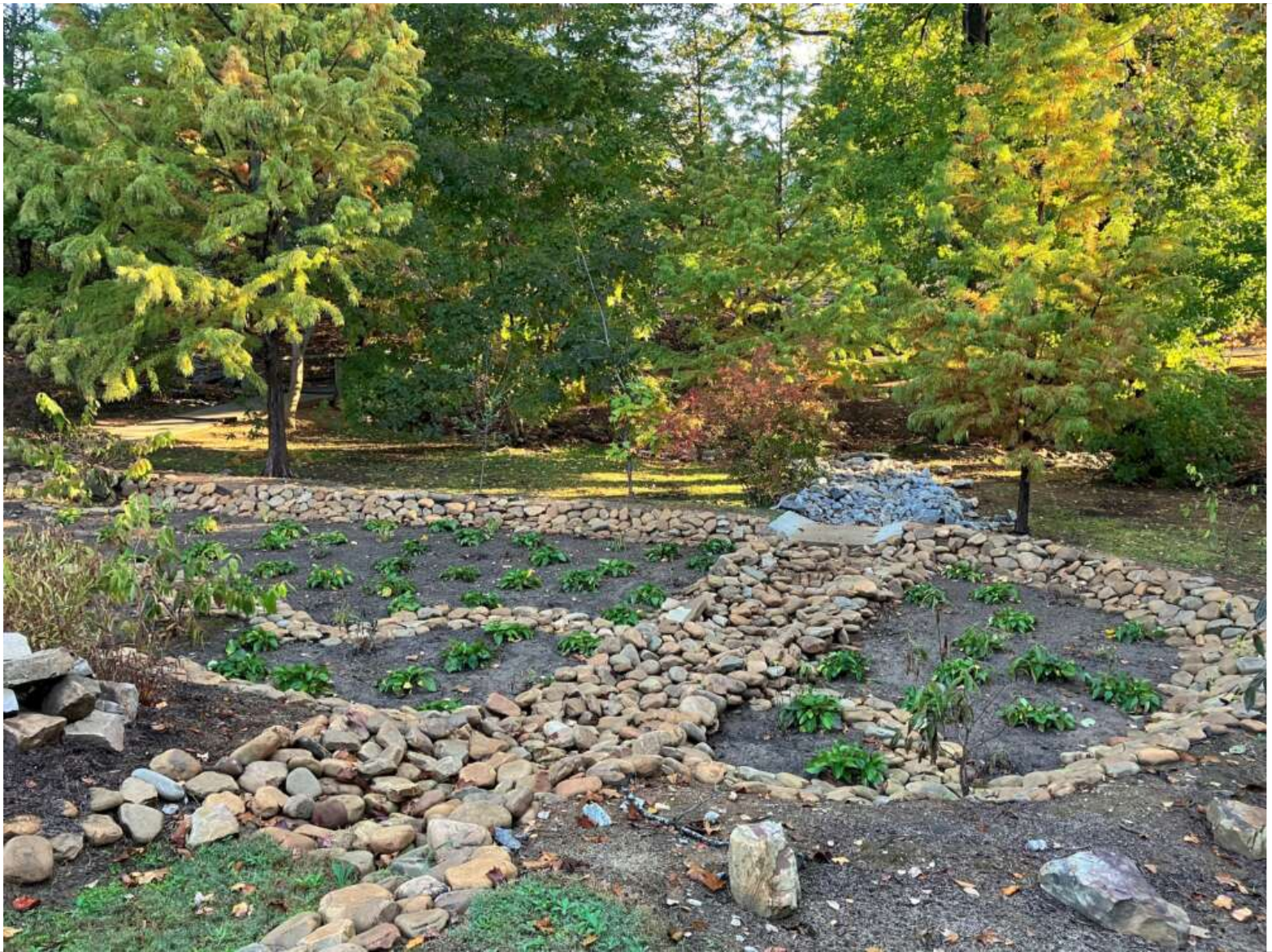
15000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

7

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

- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Bioretention area at Allen Road Park, in fall 2022

Education & Outreach

The Sandy Springs Bee City USA Committee hosted a “Meet the Beekeeper” event in April 2022 at Lost Corner Forest Preserve, a popular park in Sandy Springs. Julia Mahood, committee member and professional beekeeper, brought a demonstration hive. Park users and an organized group of children were able to see what a hive looks like in the inside and to get acquainted with the honeybees that live in the two hives at Lost Corner. In Conjunction with the Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association, the new apiary at Lost Corner Preserve was used to host four educational events for new

beekeepers, stressing IPM and best management practices. Julia Mahood led these programs. These events were held on April 2, May 7, May 28 and July 23, 2022, and were limited to 10 attendees per session.

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)?

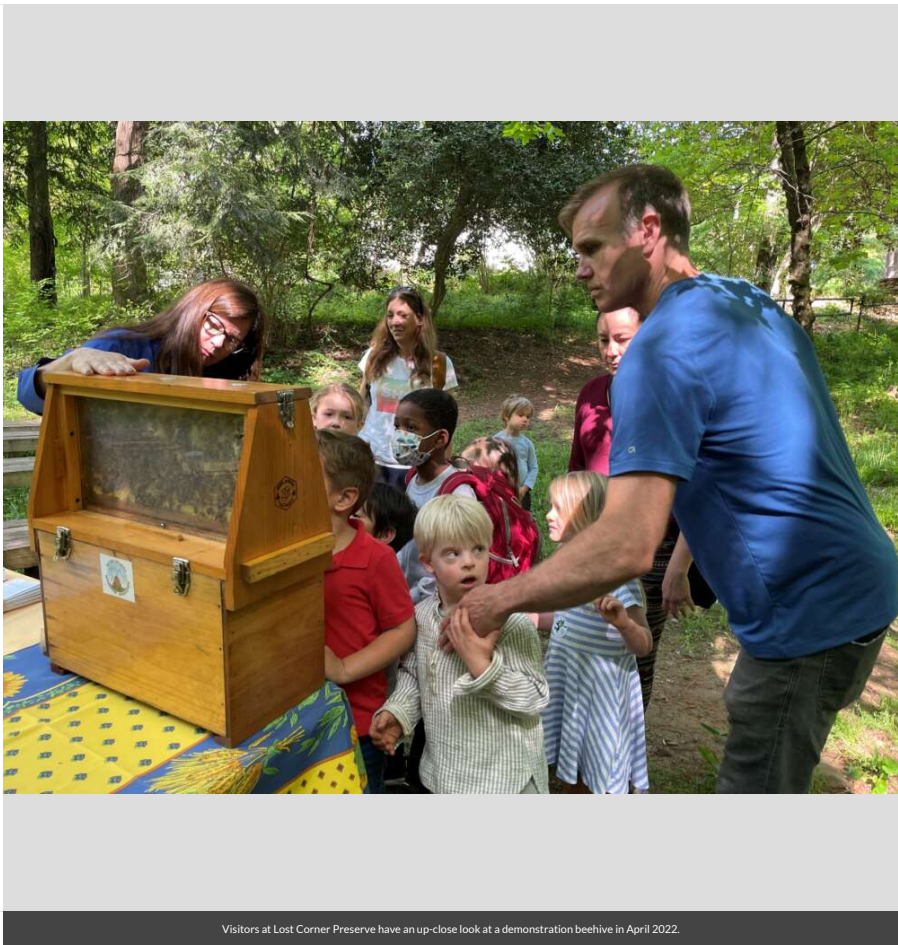
52

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

1

*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



Visitors at Lost Corner Preserve have an up-close look at a demonstration beehive in April 2022.



A frame from one of the Lost Corner Preserve beehives pulled out for beekeeper education in spring 2022.

Policies & Practices

The City of Sandy Springs recently adopted Sustainable Landscape Practices guidelines that promulgate best planning, planting, and maintenance practices, including limiting the use of pesticides. The goals of the guidelines are to create appealing landscapes; promote the use of plant species native to the Piedmont; support wildlife by creating suitable habitats; protect existing, desirable plant communities; limit landscape maintenance need; improve stormwater management; and reduce the island heat effect. These guidelines are intended for City properties, but the document is publicly available and can be used by any landowner.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds

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.

Not yet, but it is part of our work plan for 2023.

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

Not yet.

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?

City Staff attended several webinars offered by Bee City USA.

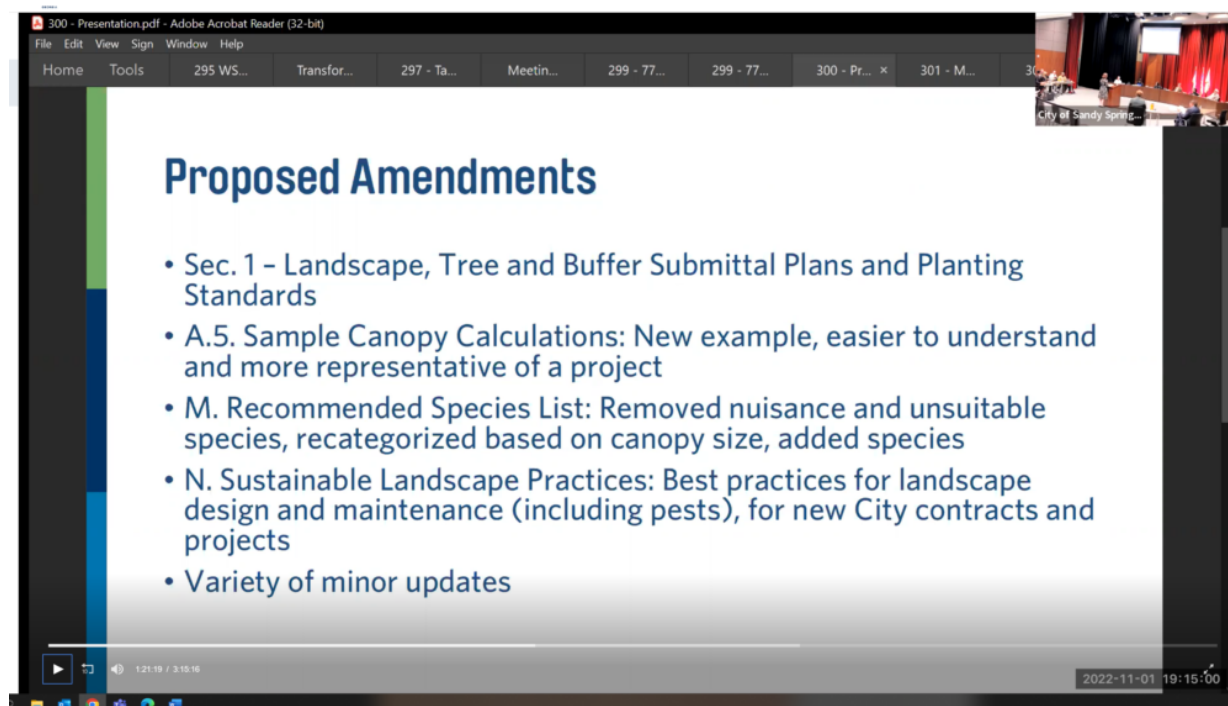
Integrated Pest Management Plan: [TA22-0008 Section N.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://gnps.org/georgias-native-plants/search-native-plants/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://gnps.org/georgias-native-plants/sources-native-plants/>



Screenshot of the presentation of the IPM plan to Mayor and City Council, November 1, 2022

Learn More

<https://environmentsandysprings.org/media-bee/>
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Committee members at the Sandy Springs Farmers Market in November 2021.