

# Bee City USA - Tyler

Report on 2022

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Tyler's Bee City USA Committee and the East Texas Beekeepers Association (ETBA) continued their partnership to improve the habitat around the Bee Observatory. Just across the Rose Garden the City of Tyler, with the help of Smith County Master Gardeners, also keeps a flourishing pollinator garden called the IDEA Garden, or also known as Tyler Botanical Garden, located in the Rose Garden. The 10,000 square foot garden is home to various plant species native to East Texas and hundreds of buzzing pollinators buzzing. Thanks to several volunteer groups throughout 2022, the Native Plant Garden at Woldert Park was maintained. . The garden is a breeding ground to all types of native plants and pollinators. During the summer months, the garden is used as an educational tool for the City's summer school programs. The summer program attendees, mainly students from the ages of six through 13, learn about pollinators and receive hands-on education on how to plant a vegetable and fruit garden in the Native Plant Garden. Each year the Tyler Trees Committee plants native trees at City of Tyler parks and public schools. This helps our native pollinators flourish in natural spaces. In addition, many of the medians inside the have been converted to pollinator friendly green spaces with native wildflower mixes planted in the fall.

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

4

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

12500

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

50

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

- Flower garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



The Rose Garden IDEA Garden area



Volunteers from Hawkins High School work to maintain the Bee Observatory



Local Cub Scout chapter plants pollinator friendly flowers at the Bee Observatory

## Education & Outreach

The Bee City USA Committee met and planned the Bee Day in the Garden Celebration which was held on June 23, 2022. During the event the committee would lead activities such as bee houses made from crafts, and interactive games focused on celebrating pollinators. Event leaders included Master Gardeners and the East Texas Beekeepers Association members. The committee felt that having pollinator experts at the event was essential to bring factual, local information to the attendees. For National Pollinator Week, we advertised and made resources available to the community virtually. We provided worksheets and games on our website and share those links on the Tyler Parks and Rec Facebook Page. A pollinator photo contest and trivia contest were also hosted on the Facebook page. The response was incredible. We had local beekeepers capturing their pollinator habitats that otherwise would have gone unseen by our residents. In May 2022, construction was complete on the updated enclosure for the bees at the Honey Bee Observation Hive in the Tyler Municipal Rose Garden. This garden is considered the largest rose garden in the world, making Tyler the “Rose Capital of the World”. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Spaces which will guarantee that the garden remains in perpetuity. The Bees were removed from the hive in Fall 2022 as temperatures got colder. The hive removal will be led by the East Texas Beekeepers Association to ensure the safety of the bees during the winter season. The bees will be returned to the observation hive in the spring when the weather warms up. The bees will be moved to Whitehouse to C.N.C Honey Farm in Whitehouse to keep them safe for the Winter. Local beekeeper, Daniel Lennon, is working with a few local highschools to construct our 3rd version of the bee observatory. This version will allow greater ventilation for the bees and the ability for the bees to overwinter at the Rose Garden. Moving forward the high school groups will also be involved in the care of the bees. Keep Tyler Beautiful Community Coordinator, Erin Garner, spoke about Bees at several

speaking opportunities throughout the year to more than 1000 people. We also began working more with the local high schools who already have outdoor education and bee programs to help strengthen their resource base.

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

2

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

500

*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



Local students learn about bee hive boxes through a Beekeeper activity



Local children dress up as pollinators to compete in a Pollen Relay



President of the East Texas Beekeeper Association checking the bee observatory

## Policies & Practices

City of Tyler Parks and Recreation staff have continued their practices to only allow licensed spray technicians to apply pesticides when necessary. Plants are checked thoroughly before planting and are inspected regularly for possible disease to avoid contamination. Whenever possible the City of Tyler incorporated native plants in their landscape improvement and locally sources all plants purchased.

*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)
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides 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>)

*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.*

It is the hope of Keep Tyler Beautiful to implement our current IPM across all City of Tyler Departments. After which we will also work with local landscaping companies through a possibly recognition program or certification to promote companies that use safe pesticide practices.

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

Yes, we will be continuing to review our pesticide practices and look at ways to increase our usage of pollinator friendly pest control and allow wildflower and native areas to remain pesticide free.

*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?*

In 2022, the Coordinator attended 2 virtual trainings about pollinator education.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [City of Tyler IPM.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

[https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX\\_east%20](https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_east%20)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.breedlovelandscape.com/%20>

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

**TYLER BEE CITY USA**  
COMMITTEE INTEREST MEETING

Tuesday, May 17 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Tyler Public Library - Taylor Auditorium

 

## Learn More

<http://KeepTylerBeautiful.com>

[ktyb@tylertexas.com](mailto:ktyb@tylertexas.com)

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

<https://www.instagram.com/cityoftylertexas>

<https://twitter.com/CityofTyler>



Keep Tyler Beautiful Bee Committee Meeting June 2022