

Bee City USA - Virginia Beach

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Planted more pollinator friendly plants in the Bee City Garden at Redwing Park with 6-7 volunteers, additionally these volunteers come weekly and monthly to hand weed garden to eliminate all pesticides in that garden. Additionally one volunteer sowed various milkweed seed at Mt Trasmore Park around the no mow zone as well as in the Adam Keeling Lot Meadow area on Great Neck Road.

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

3

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

- Flower garden
- 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)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Bee City Redwing Pollinator Garden Huskers Red Penstemon & Yarrow



Bee in the the Pollinator Garden



Pollinator food in the Redwing Pollinator Garden

Education & Outreach

The VB Bee City committee participated in numerous events to promote pollinator conservation including; TreeTopia, Virginia Tech BugFest, Buffington Historical Home Fall Fest, Master Gardener Fall Festival, Seed Pop Activity to honor municipal workers, Symponicity booth and numerous pollinator education presentations to garden clubs and schools.

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

17

*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



Policies & Practices

Maintained and updated the VB Integrate Pest Management Plan. Meeting with other departments engaged in various pesticide management programs, including Mosquito Control, Building Maintenance Pest Control and we meet quarterly to share information regarding chemical application best practices that will decrease non target activity and promote organic and non toxic control where possible.

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
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- 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.

There are neighborhood-led efforts that encourage and educate the public and the Bee City VB committee offer a Bee-Friendly program that encourages

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

There is guidelines that seek to protect pollinators within departments but no written City policy.

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?

Both City & Committee members attended training related to integrated pest management and educated many more on how to create pollinator habitat.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [20210305 - IPM Plan - FINAL.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [VB 2021 Grow Native Trees For Bees.pdf](#)

<https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>



Learn More

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Bee City USA Committee Members