

Bee City USA - Woodstock

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Streetscape plantings along Main Street featured seven different pollinator plant species. These were viewed by thousands of people including residents and tourists. The Town is creating an arboretum with a focus on natives and a pollinator garden. Town staff in Public Works have spent numerous workdays in the arboretum area removing invasives and cultivating and planting native pollinators in this multiyear project. The Town Arborist has presented the arboretum plans to the Town Council, Tree Board, and local Woodstock Rotary Club. The Town Public works staff works throughout the community's public spaces and rights of ways removing invasives and planting natives. In addition, the Public works staff does not utilize insecticides and implements the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IMP). The Town Planner works closely with developers reviewing landscaping plans and encouraging the plantings of natives in residential subdivisions and commercial site plans. The Public Works staff created a bioswale and removed invasives at the local W.O. Riley Park, promoting pollinators. The Tree Board conducted a cleanup of the Indian Springs wetland public area removing exotics and invasives. Other organizations have conducted pollinator events in the area such as Sustainability Matters which offered numerous virtual workshops on planting pollinators, replacing turfgrass with natives to promote no-mow landscaping, and a pollinator garden at the nearby Shenandoah County landfill. For more information on events promoting pollinators see <https://www.sustainabilitymatters.earth/events>.

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

33

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

130680

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

30

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
- Meadow

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- 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



Education & Outreach

Hosted by Woodstock Tree Board: There were bimonthly Tree Board meetings with pollinator discussions, attended by 16 persons each meeting. The Tree Board is the host committee for the Woodstock Bee Club. The Tree Board also held a cleanup event removing invasives at the Indian Springs wetlands attended by 14 people. During a celebration of Arbor Day, 8 Tree Board members visited a total of 230 second and third grade students giving out native tree saplings discussing the role and importance of pollinators. The Town of Woodstock hosted a meeting with the Department of Forestry (attended by 9 persons) to tour pollinator and tree canopy plans for the town. Four meetings were held by three town staff to prepare FAQ pamphlets on pollinators and tree plantings for public handouts. Town staff attended three pollinator events outside the community. In addition, the Tree Board had a kiosk at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds during the fair week with displays promoting native plants, importance of trees and pollinators. The Tree Board distributed

pollinator FAQ sheets and held a raffle to win pollinator plants at the County Fair where an estimated 100 persons a day viewed the Tree Board kiosk for six days, totaling 600 people learning about pollinators. The Town arborist spoke to 30 Rotarians about pollinators during a Rotary meeting. Other Pollinator Events in Woodstock Area: The Shenandoah County Beekeepers Club hosted a series of Beekeeping 101 classes (with 15 students), plus the Club held bimonthly meetings in the Town Hall, along with two breakfast meetings for the club members. The Beekeepers Club also hosted twelve workdays cleaning the apiary at the local Seven Bends State Park which included 10 club members and 10 members of the public at each workday. There were hive demonstrations held at the Annual Germanic Festival attended by 300 people, at the Seven Bends Park's Beat the Bands events attended by 85 people, and a hive demonstration with hive painting attended by 45 persons at Kids Day during the Shenandoah County Fair.

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

56

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1680

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.

- Yes



Policies & Practices

Woodstock's Public Works staff have implemented the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) and Planning Department has utilized the IPM as a reference for developers in preparation of required landscaping plans for commercial sites and new developments. The Town arborist and public works staff have avoided use of pesticides in public sites to promote pollinator habitats. In 2022, the Town was fortunate and was able to implement the IMP best practices in all public area vegetative maintenance. The pesticide elimination in 2022 was for all public areas (no neonicotinoid insecticides nor other pesticides). For public spaces, the Public Works staff have sourced natives and other non-invasives primarily from local growers that use bee-safe plants and sustainable products. The elected Town Council and Mayor issued a proclamation of National Pollinator Week during the week of June 19th, 2022. The Marketing and Outreach Director provided daily facts about pollinators on the Town social media page each day during National Pollinator Week. The Tree Board is planning to create a pollinator garden in the local public park to help raise awareness of the importance of pollinators. A store on Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce both feature raw honey collected from hives at the local apiary in the Seven Bends State Park. For Town Public Works, in purchasing plants for public spaces, emphasis is placed on purchasing native plants from local suppliers that utilize pollinator friendly techniques in cultivating stock.

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**
- **Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds**
- **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>)**

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 Tree Board prepared native and pollinator friendly plant FAQ handouts that are located in the front office of the Town Hall, visible to community members. These handouts were also made available to the public during the week of the Shenandoah County Fair with a fun raffle chance to give away two pollinator plants. The Tree Board discussed the importance of the role of pollinators and how to create their habitat when delivering tree saplings to the second and third grade students during a celebration of Arbor Day.

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

Integrated pest management plan, purchase of native pollinators, removal of invasives, Town Council adoption of Bee City resolution.

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?

Town staff attended the USFS webinar on pollinators for training, Blue Ridge Prism webinar on Xerces butterflies, Waynesboro Tree Workshop offered a pollinator class for arborists attended by staff. In addition, there have been numerous webinars that both staff and volunteers. Tree Board Chair attended the NOVA Master G tour and the Waynesboro Plant Symposium in March 2022. Roanoke Tree Workshop attended by arborist and Tree Board volunteer to learn about natives, pollinators and bioswales. The Town Marketing Director attended a pollinator talk at the National Main Street conference held in Richmond, to learn about other localities that featured public art that promoted pollinators. Public Works town staff redesigned the bioswale at W.O. Riley Park that overrun by two species and increased the vegetative diversity of five species of native pollinator-friendly herbs and shrubs. In addition, these pollinator-friendly grasses, herbs and shrubs were planted to enhance the pollinator habitat of the bioswale which is located in the entrance to the public park and viewed by all visitors.

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

<https://www.townofwoodstockva.com/DocumentCenter/View/2133/IPM-Plan>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Recommended Plant Bio-Diversity List.docx](#)

<http://Recommended%20pollinator%20species%20for%20plantings%20on%20website.>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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



Town staff reviewing future arboretum plans with U.S. Department of Forestry

Learn More

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<https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Woodstock-Virginia-201011663375674>
<https://instagram.com/discoverwoodstockva>



Several members of the Woodstock Tree Board