

# Bee City USA - University of North Florida

## Report on 2022

### Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

We created the "Bee Patch" within our Healing Garden, enhanced our Butterfly Garden, Created and Installed a BioSwale, restored our native pitcher plant bed within the preserve, and created The Edge, a 1- acre all native demonstration garden located on the edge of the preserve. Enhanced the Orchard. Created Humming Bird Lane packed with pollinator-friendly plants. Installed additional native wildflowers for plant diversity in the Native gardens. Enhanced our 1-acre organic farm and created a potager permaculture garden display. All done with the help of volunteers.

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

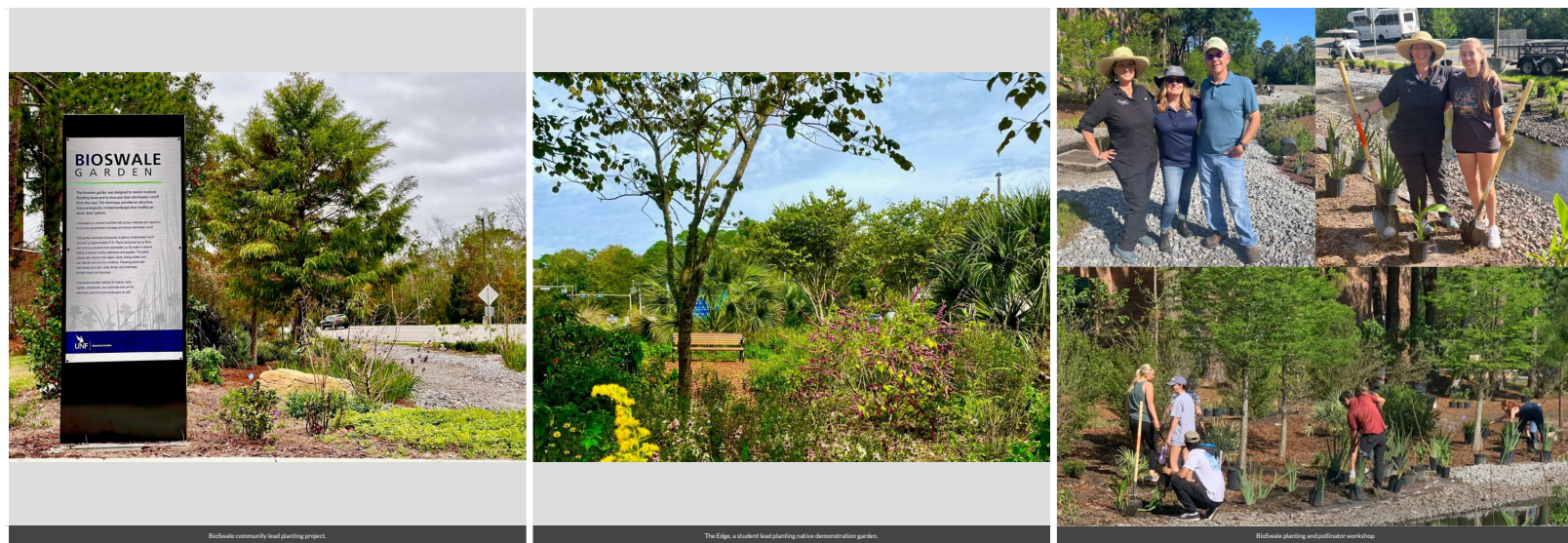
- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic 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
- School garden

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

We adopted No Mow March this year since May is too warm for us in Florida. We aim to have all our gardens certified Florida-Friendly, which means no mowing or applying fertilizers and pesticides within a minimum of 10 feet from any water body.

*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?*

We modeled our IPM plan after a few examples on the Bee Campus USA website. Our employees must have their Florida Green Industry Best Management Practice Certificate and Fertilization application certificates. In addition, our spray techs follow the law concerning their licenses and attend mandatory CEU classes annually.



## Education & Outreach

We held 11 pollinator conservation events in our community last year. We kicked off the celebration of our new Bee Campus USA Designation on May 20, 2023 with a World Bee Day public celebration. We had over 90 community members in attendance. Attendees built bee condos, learned about the best native wild plants for pollinators in our community and an educational workshop on native bees and European honey bee keeping complete with honey tasting. This event was covered on the local news and radio and Committee sponsored. What is No Mow May? Committee sponsored. May 1 thru May 31, 22. Native Plant Society Virtual Conference. Enhancing landscapes with native plants to attract wildlife. May 20th at 8 AM thru May 22, 22 at 6 PM Good bug or Bad Bug? Don't squish it and then wish you hadn't missed this workshop! Come out and learn about beneficial insects and pests in the garden. Committee sponsored. June 8, 22 At 10 AM Attractive Native Plants. Come learn about attracting native pollinators using native plants with Ogier Gardens staff member, April Thomas. June 17, 22 at 4 PM Honey Bees & Bee Keeping. Join us for a free informational talk on beekeeping with beekeeper and Alum Greg Harris. Committee sponsored. July 27, 22 at 10 AM Attractive Native

Plants- Come learn about attracting native pollinators using native plants with Ogier Gardens staff member, April Thomas. Sept. 13, 22 at 10 AM Bees are critical for our food supply, yet more than 25% of the managed honey bee population has disappeared since 1990. Learn beekeeping from local expert, Greg Harris. Committee sponsored. Oct. 12, 22 at 3 PM No Mow March for Florida. March 1 thru March 31, 23. Committee sponsored. Bees are critical for our food supply, yet more than 25% of the managed honey bee population has disappeared since 1990. Learn beekeeping from local expert, Greg Harris. Committee sponsored. Mar. 24, 23 at 10 AM Bee A Good Citizen Community Engagement Workshop and Painting Demonstration. Painting Students will discuss why its important to protect Florida's 6 primary native bee families and create an oil painting demonstration, open to the community. They then painted 6 aluminum bees using oil paint on top of powder coated aluminum. The bees were then permanently mounted in the UNF Bee Garden. Committee Sponsored. March 29, 23 at 3 PM – 6 PM

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

11

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

427

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

*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.*

*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?*

60000

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

156

*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
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- 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

*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.*



## Policies & Practices

We have eliminated the use of all neonicotinoids and have increased our volunteer pool to help with hand weeding during the establishment period of new gardens. Nine of our gardens were awarded Florida-Friendly Landscape Gold Certifications for following the 9 basic sustainability principles, including gardening for wildlife by avoiding pesticides and selective herbicides.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [UNF BG IPM-Plan.pdf](#)

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

[https://www.unf.edu/physicalfacilities/landscape/Campus\\_Plants.aspx](https://www.unf.edu/physicalfacilities/landscape/Campus_Plants.aspx)



Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.fann.org/>



What is No Mow May educational outreach in Campus newsletter and on social media.

Learn More