

Bee City USA - Woodstock

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

We created the Woodstock Parks for Pollinators Pollinator Garden Certification program, where citizens could certify and be recognized for installing and maintaining pollinator gardens. In 2022, four residents certified their gardens and could choose from either a certificate or yard sign as recognition of their efforts to support and spread awareness of pollinators. In 2021, a local Girl Scout troop planted a monarch butterfly waystation and pollinator garden at Dupree Park within the City of Woodstock. The troop was recognized by Mayor & City Council at a meeting, where members of the troop shared pictures and stories of their garden installation. Since the installation of this waystation and pollinator garden, City of Woodstock Parks & Recreation staff, along with volunteers from the community who are part of the Butterfly Gardeners program, have maintained the area and are looking for ways to expand. In 2022, our Butterfly Gardeners program created two new butterfly gardens: the William G. Long Senior Center Gulf Fritillary Butterfly Garden and the Noonday/Towne Lake Pass Trailhead Swallowtail Butterfly Garden. The garden locations and plantings were chosen to attract specific butterflies and create variety in our gardens throughout the city. Additional gardens are planned as budgets allow, and the Parks for Pollinators committee is brainstorming ideas for a butterfly trail, that will incentivize guests to visit each of our different gardens.

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
- 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

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

There are no policy initiatives underway at the moment to further protect pollinators, people, or waterways from

pesticides. However, the Little River is a valuable resource, along with other creeks and streams that run throughout the city, and the Mayor and City Council are receptive to innovative ideas and opportunities to preserve and protect our waterways.

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?

The City of Woodstock supports training opportunities for its staff, including continuing education programs on best practices for ecologically-based pest management. Our pollinator program is still in its infancy, so there are plenty of opportunities to learn from other successful cities and organizations.



Education & Outreach

In 2022, the City of Woodstock began pollinator conservation and outreach in earnest. We offered Discovering Beekeeping, an introductory/survey course for folks contemplating beekeeping; and Essential Gardening – Pollinator Gardens to introduce citizens into creating pollinator habitats. Discovering Beekeeping is taught by citizen volunteer Shannon Sorescu, an experienced beekeeper who also maintains the hives at the Woodstock Community Garden. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the city hosted a series of informational classes on beekeeping. The monthly classes started with the bee basics, such as cost, time, and space required for beekeeping, and then continued with topics such as bee biology, protecting the colony throughout the seasons, and harvesting honey. A second program, Bee Hive Maintenance, was established. Programs are designed to provide information and resources for new and established beekeepers alike. Essential Gardening–Pollinator Gardens was held in late winter/early spring, as our local gardeners were preparing their garden beds for the summer. The program was led by the Cherokee County Master Gardeners and the Cherokee County UGA (University of Georgia) Extension Office. Participants learned about different types of pollinators and how to help pollinators thrive in our landscape and community, and everyone took home plants or seeds to attract pollinators at their homes. Other sessions were led by citizen volunteer Diane Geeslin, a skilled gardener and one of Woodstock’s Community Garden members. For pollinator awareness in the summer, our Woodstock Parks for Pollinators committee held two events. We hosted a booth at the Woodstock Farm Fresh Market in August, where we educated visitors on the variety of pollinators in our area and how to attract and support pollinators, as well as signed up volunteers for our pollinator gardens. We gave away branded Parks for Pollinators stickers to raise awareness and support for our committee. We also had a Pollination ROCKS! Event in September where citizens learned about all types of pollinators and then painted river rocks with pollinator awareness colors and slogans and distributed them throughout Woodstock.

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

19

How many people attended those events (in total)?

264

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

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

7

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

6600

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

60

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 is opportunity to work with residents, HOAs, and other community organizations on education to reduce pesticide use. City staff is considering language that could be made a part of City Council policy that would encourage and possibly incentivize developers to utilize native and pollinator-friendly plantings while planning the landscape of new residential or commercial developments. Staff may also evaluate if there are incentives to offer developers who install pollinator habitats as amenities within developments.



Policies & Practices

In our city parks, we've made efforts to utilize non-chemical pest management and prevention programs. Woofstock Park is the city's very popular large and small breed dog park. Woofstock is also home to the Towne Lake Pass and Noonday Creek Trailheads, two trails that see a lot of year-round activity. The dog park is in the floodplain so that leads to wet soils and pests such as mosquitoes. With recent upgrades to Woofstock, we have utilized pest-repellent plantings in addition to

animal habitats such as bat boxes and martin houses to deter pests. Much of the city's pest management is handled by a third-party. The company contracted by the city is a bee-friendly company, with a "Honeybee Control and Removal" (HBR) Certification from the State of Georgia. They work with local beekeepers and land owners to safely relocate honeybees that have become a nuisance. If pesticides are used, any treatments near active pollinators and honeybees are applied in the later part of the day when the critters are not active. Pesticides are never sprayed directly on flowering plants, and care is taken to avoid applying pesticides upwind of flowering plants as well.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://woodstock.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=26594>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [BEE CITY USA - Native Suppliers.docx](#)

Learn More

<https://woodstockparksandrec.com>

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



In February 2022, members of our Parks for Pollinators committee visited the Green Meadows Nature Preserve in Cobb County, GA, a nature preserve with community garden and native plant garden.

