

Bee City USA - Apex

Report on 2023

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

The Pollinator Garden at Apex Nature Park was enhanced with group planting and clean up days. We added 100 new pollinator-friendly plants that are native to our location. A local native plant expert was brought in to educate the groups on native species. One Boy Scout built and installed a bee hotel near the pollinator garden to achieve his Eagle Rank. A half mile of electric byway was left to grow naturally and meadow pollinator-friendly seeds were thrown. We are in the process of analyzing additional byway areas that can be turned into meadow space for pollinators. 3 bee houses/hotels have been placed on utility poles and have already seen bees move in. We have a goal to add additional hotels to other utility poles this year.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

4

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

100

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

3

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

3000

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

- Roadside/rights of way planting
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Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

We were pleased to host two girl scout groups to help refresh our pollinator garden by adding new plants and spreading mulch. We also had one girl scout complete her Silver Project with the pollinator garden. Staff members attended pesticide usage webinar. Member spoke to high school Environmental Club to share about pollinators, town environmental efforts, and brainstorm how the students could create pollinator-friendly environments at their school. Town of Apex hosted an Earthfest, an engaging, interactive festival offering ways to learn about, participate in, and celebrate our planet. A representative from Bee City was in attendance.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

3

How many people attended those events (in total)?

100

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

1

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

Teams are working on a pest management plan and will consider options to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

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

Teams are working on pest management plan and will consider preventative measures to protect groups from pesticides.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

Staff members attended IPM workshop hosted by Xerces Society. Will be meeting with other Town departments to discuss what was learned.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**
- **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.

The Bee City team has worked on a yard certification program that will be shared this year. Reducing or eliminating pesticide usage is included in this plan. Staff representative will meet with other Town departments to discuss pesticide usage of contracted services and developers.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

It is important to have a dedicated staff member that is focused on Bee City and pollinator efforts to serve as a liaison between departments. We have found that many Town departments are already working on sustainability/environmental efforts. It is important to know what other departments are working on so we can all come together to reach our goals!

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<http://www.apexnc.org/DocumentCenter/View/35310/Apex-Sustainability-Initiatives-Report---2021?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Top-25-Plants-and-Suppliers-2.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Top-25-Plants-and-Suppliers-2.pdf](#)

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