

Bee City USA - Appleton

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 University group, Appleton Pollinator Project spent massive amounts of time and energy removing invasives including well-established buckthorn, burdock, thistle and others along a quarter-mile stretch of the University's Fox River shoreline at the SLUG gardens. SLUG provided food plots for volunteers and students and continued to expand their active bee colonies. Pollenablers Fox Cities installed a pilot quarter-acre Low-Mow seed plot to test eight low/no-mow ground-cover alternatives. The Low-Mow Circle plot was visited by member of parks and grounds in September and was very well received. We are on target to seed at least some of the adjacent Ellen Kort Peace Park with one or two of the low-mom mixes the City expressed an interest in.

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

1

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

25

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

2500

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

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

Education & Outreach

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

Pollenablers hosted the annual Pollinator Week celebration and engaged roughly a dozen area non-profits in creating

events and developing activities for the week. We worked with the Atlas Science Center participating in and promoting their pollinator education exhibits and the Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin to help expand their mission. We conducted our annual one day World Bee Day event at McFleshman's Brewing Co. and had a massive social media event occur when the McF hive swarmed and gathered on a the hops wall.

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)?

2

use.

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

We anticipate intruding another Resolution in 2025 after we build some community buy-in and better educate homeowners about eco-friendly organic pest and weed treatment options.

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

Tangentially with City staff as we encouraged them to find areas on our parks system that could be managed with fewer seasonal mowings and better ground cover alternatives.

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

- **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**
- **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 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.

We will be conducting a city-wide Pollinator Property competition to showcase what committed homeowners are doing to provide habitat and help citizens get ideas for their own yards. We hope this effort will help showcase lawn care and cover alternatives and help reduce the amount of pesticides being applied by private property owners.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Keep moving forward. Some of the battles will be lost, but you just have to pick yourselves up and try again.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Appleton-WI-Local-Plant- List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Appleton-WI-Local-Plant Suppliers.pdf](#)