

Bee City USA - Arlington

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.

Bee City Committee members and the Stormwater Educator assist the City's Water Conservation Educator at the 2.75 acre Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden by providing maintenance and planting assistance. The committee cohost's the annual bioblitz survey at the garden and participates in community presentations at the site. In November 2023, Tarrant Regional Water District provided grant money to the Bee City committee and Stormwater Education Program to install a new 1000 sq. ft. native plant and pollinator garden at Arlington's Southwest Branch Library. The committee along with community volunteers will maintain the garden which will provide educational opportunities to the community.

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

2

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

147

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

2

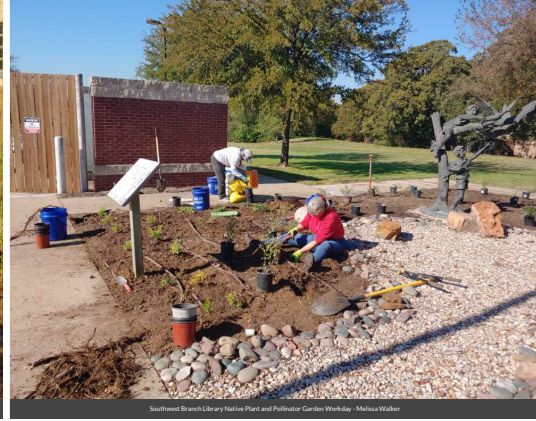
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

120790

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
- Rain garden/bioswale

- Other



Education & Outreach

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

The City of Arlington's Bee City Committee members and Stormwater Educator provide presentations, Citizen Science programs and attend community events throughout the year. Native Bees and other pollinators presentation provides information on the importance of creating and protecting native pollinator habitat by discussing the environmental stressors such as disease, habitat loss, and pesticide use. The adult program includes the importance of using native plants in gardens which provide nesting places, food and shelter. Our citizen science program utilizes the iNaturalist application to identify native pollinator species. We host bioblitzes, moth nights, bat nights and benthic macro-invertebrate programs to gather data on our local species. The City's Parks and Recreation department distributes native trees at several community events throughout the year and emphasizes the use of native plants in residential and business landscapes.

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

13

How many people attended those events (in total)?

287

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

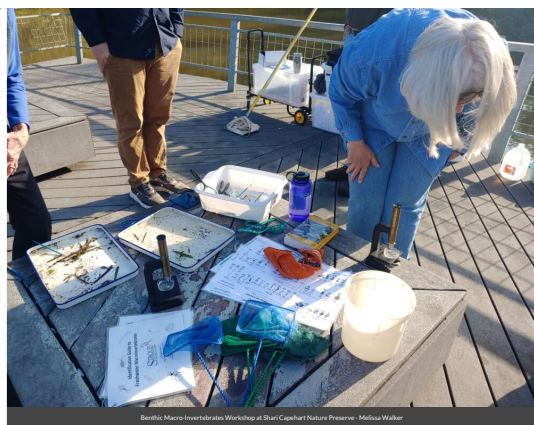
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Bat Night at River Legacy Park - Melissa Walker



Moth Night at River Legacy Park - Melissa Walker



Bat/Macro-Invertebrates Workshop at StarCapHart Nature Preserve - Melissa Walker



Bee City Committee Sign - Melissa Walker

Policies & Practices

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

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining city property. The department continues to

implement Integrated Pest Management practices. This includes avoiding use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive areas.

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

The City still maintains policies and practices which promote pesticide reduction and pollinator friendly landscapes. These include the Parks and Recreation IPM program; the Design Criteria Manual and Unified Development Code for the business community; Parks and Recreation plant lists, Bee City website plant lists and the Zoning Board's approved plant list for new development; and Code Enforcement's Nuisance Ordinance.

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

There were not any specific CE programs for IPM planning this year. However during adult presentations or garden workdays, IPM topics and questions come up from residents and visitors about pesticide use. We take these opportunities to provide specific IPM strategies to use for specific garden and landscape pests in lieu of a pesticide.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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)
- 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>)

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 committee reviewed and helped update the landscape brochure and PHF pamphlet which was given to residents at 12 community events in FY2023. The brochure and pamphlet encourages residents and business owners to reduce their use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Our education material describes Integrated Pest Management Practices that can be easily implemented to achieve that goal.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Be patient. It takes time to develop committee and community relationships.

- ❖ **Biological Controls** use living organisms that are the natural enemies of pests. This includes beneficial insects such as ladybugs, praying mantises, Green lacewings and parasitoid wasps; Biological insecticides, compost and compost tea; weed feeders; pathogens and improved natural defenses.



Biological Control Measures - COA Parks Department IPM

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [COA IPM Update 2020.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [UDC Plant-lists-approved.pdf](#)

https://www.arlingontx.gov/city_hall/departments/parks_recreation/parks_trails/forestry_and_beautification%20

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers List for North Central Texas.pdf](#)