

Bee City USA - Boone

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.

During "No Mow May", over one million square feet (approximately 23 acres) of public land were left untouched during the month of May. In doing so, the Town of Boone was able to enhance these habitats to create a more pollinator-friendly area. While maintenance resumed after May, the Town reduced mowing near streambanks and other areas to maintain a pollinator-friendly atmosphere. Furthermore, the two maples trees planted on the Watauga High School property have been used as homes for squirrels and other larger pollinators.

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?

20

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

2

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

1000000

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

- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- 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 Town of Boone hosted Earth Third Friday, our annual Earth Day event. During this event, many NGOs attended to showcase the work they do to protect the Earth, which included how they help with pollinators. Furthermore, the Town's departments handed out native plant seeds for attendants to plant on their private property. Before Earth Third Friday, the Town of Boone planted two maple trees on the Watauga High School property in honor of two community members lost during 2023, Cole Ellis, a student at Watauga High School, and Tamara Stamey, an educator at Watauga County Schools. In May, the Town of Boone hosted "No Mow May", in which all public land was not mowed for the month of May, and all residential property owners were encouraged to partake. The Town of Boone also hosted the "Fun in the Park" event on September 9th. This event is hosted by the Public Works Department, and educates children of all ages about environmental sustainability, water conservation, and pollinator-friendly practices.

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

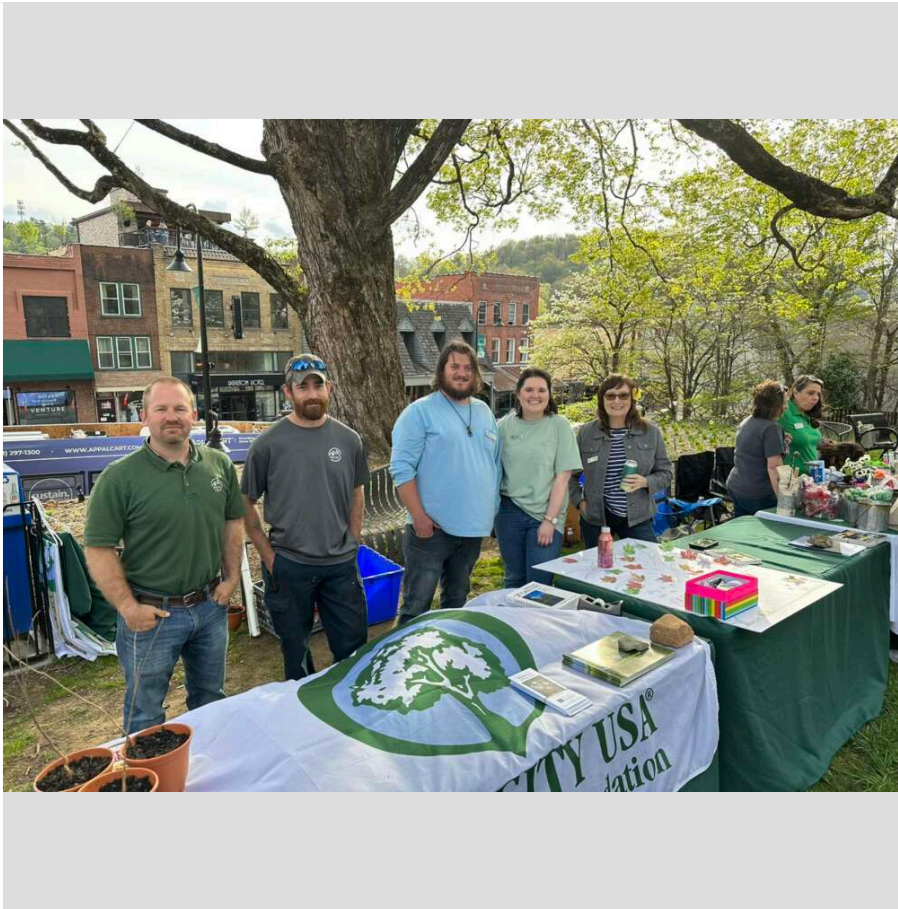
4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

350

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

3



Town of Boone Staff at Earth Third Friday: Photo Credit Town of Boone



Community Members Planting a Maple Tree at Watauga High School: Photo Credit Town of Boone



Bee City Sign for the Town of Boone: Photo Credit Town of Boone

Policies & Practices

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

The Town of Boone sprays pesticides only when necessary, and only during non-active hours. This is to ensure that the pollinators are not effected entirely, and that residents remain unharmed.

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

The Town of Boone does not spray pesticides near waterways, unless under dire circumstances. Pesticides are used during non-peak hours to ensure no person or animal is contaminated, and proper procedures are used if a rain event is coming.

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

Not currently, however the Town of Boone is in the process of developing a Community Climate Action Plan. This plan has a section dedicated to Nature and Parks, in which the fourth goal is to Plant 500 More Pollinator-Supporting Plants by 2030. In doing so, the Town will begin looking into IPM Planning.

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)
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- 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.

No current actions are underway as of yet.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

No Mow May is a great opportunity for community engagement.

NATURE AND PARKS

The Town of Boone owns and manages 240 acres of forested woodlands. These woodlands will sequester 684 MT CO₂e by 2030. The Town is actively reforesting a former 30 acre hay field in the floodplain of the South Fork of the New River. Additionally, the Town of Boone has planted 296 trees since 2020. The Town will continue to plant 60 to 70 trees per year.



Image 18. Town of Boone Employees Planting Trees on Queen Street



Image 19. Volunteers at a Town of Boone Tree Planting Event









Action	Co-Benefits	Reduction Potential
Plant 750 trees on Town Properties by 2030		
Achieve 40% Canopy Coverage by 2028		
Reduce Invasive Plants by 50% by 2030		
Plant 500 More Pollinator-Supporting Plants by 2030		

Table 12. Water Emissions Reduction Strategies



Town of Boone's Community Climate Action Plan: Photo Credit Town of Boone

Sustainability Committee

Overview

The Sustainability Committee is responsible for establishing short- and long-term goals and recommendations to improve the sustainability and resilience of the community, conducts public focus groups, surveys, and educational programs on various areas of sustainability-related issues, and establishes a yearly public sustainability forum for the purpose of reporting effectiveness of current measures and receiving broad input for new measures. Currently, the Sustainability Committee has 7 board members and 3 student members.

Meetings

- 5:30 pm
- 1st Wednesday of every even numbered month

Agendas & Minutes

Agendas are available prior to the meetings. Minutes are available following approval.

[View Most Recent Agendas and Minutes](#)

Board Members	Appointed	Term Expires
Brian Crutchfield- Chair	8/19/2021	6/30/2024
Bhuwan Thapa- Board Member	2/22/2023	6/30/2026
Jennifer Maxwell- Board Member	6/015/2022	6/30/2025
Joan Brook- Board Member	6/30/2022	6/30/2025
Ryan Robinson- Board Member	8/09/2023	06/30/2026
Michael Weiss- Board Member	11/08/2023	06/30/2026
Becca Nenow- Board Member	1/10/2024	1/31/2027
Georgia Arnold- Student Member	1/10/2024	6/30/2024
Joey Crews- Student Member	6/30/2023	6/30/2026
Evan Flaherty- Student Member	7/12/2023	6/30/2024

Current Roster for Sustainability Committee for the Town of Boone 2024: Photo Credit Town of Boone

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

http://www.townofboone.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AppendixB_12172020.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<http://valleyviewnurseries.com/>

<https://www.townofboone.net/637/Bees-and-Trees>

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<https://www.instagram.com/townofboonenc>

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

https://twitter.com/town_boone