

Bee City USA - Carrboro

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.

Town of Carrboro Planning and Public Works staff hosted an event for kids to make seed balls at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Children were able to make seed balls using compost, clay, and seeds from native pollinator-friendly species. Milkweed seeds were a primary component of the seed ball mix. At the end of the activity, the children threw the balls into a wetland area to grow and thrive. Staff also held a native, pollinator-friendly tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day. In addition, staff held a volunteer invasive species removal event at Henry "Hank" Anderson III Community Park to remove privet, multiflora rose, wisteria, and other invasive plant species.

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

3

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

15

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

1

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

65340

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

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



Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Event, Photo Credit: Laura Jarney



Making Seed Balls at Outreach Event, Photo Credit: Laura Jarney



Throwing Seed Balls at Outreach Event, Photo Credit: Laura Jarney

Education & Outreach

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

Town of Carrboro staff collaborated with the Carrboro Farmers' Market for a kids pollinator activity as part of their Market Bunch event series. Children were invited to make their own bee hotels using recyclable materials and color pollinator pictures. Staff also gave out free native wildflower seeds to attendees. Staff hosted a similar project at one of the Carrboro In Motion events. The Town also held a free screening of the film, Nature: The Hummingbird Effect at the Carrboro Century Center. Staff also celebrated National Moth Week by hosting a moth night event where residents could come view moths and learn to identify common species. More information can be found here:

<http://www.townofcarrboro.org/2697/National-Moth-Week>. Staff also hosted two events for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census to help encourage participation in this citizen science initiative. More information can be found here: <https://www.carrboronc.gov/2933/Great-Southeast-Pollinator-Census>. The Town also participated in No Mow May and promoted this initiative throughout the community.

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

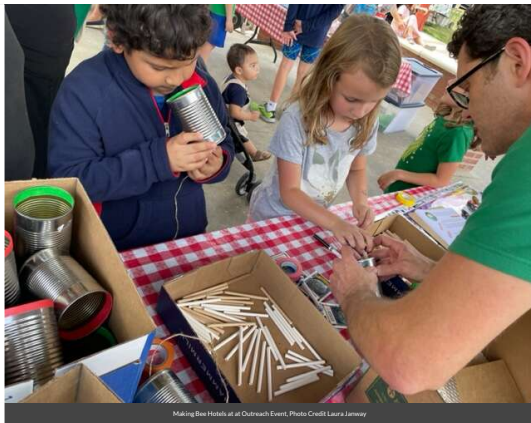
133

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

4



Pollinator Census Setup, Photo Credit Laura Jarney



Making Bee Hotels at an Outreach Event, Photo Credit Laura Jarney



Moth Night, Photo Credit Laura Jarney



Bee City USA Sign, Photo Credit Randy Dodd

Policies & Practices

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

The Town of Carrboro's integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) policy and program are a



combined comprehensive approach that gives priority to the prevention and management of pests including insects, weeds, and plant disease, through a proactive strategy. This strategy involves the thorough examination of all pest control methods available, starting with the least toxic methods first if feasible. The policy reduces the environmental health risk to municipal employees, visitors, and Town residents. It helps protect the environment and results in greater safety of public grounds, buildings, and sports fields, reduced exposure to chemical pesticides by those engaged in pest management, and acts as an example to residents and others.

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

Pollinator Habitat

"We can all avoid pesticides. We can all put nectar-rich native plants into the landscape. We can all advocate for green space. We can all teach kids about bees. It's not that we all need to become beekeepers. No, we all need to become bee protectors, bee champions."

--Alison Gillespie, author of [Hives in the City. Keeping Honey Bees Alive in an Urban World](#)

In October, 2014, Carrboro became the third municipality in the country to join [Bee City USA](#). Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, spread of pests and diseases, intensification and industrialization of apiculture, and reduced genetic diversity. Becoming a Bee City USA affiliate publicly announces Carrboro's intention to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators. For municipal operations, Carrboro has been pursuing a [Least Toxic Integrated Pest Management Policy](#) since the 1990s that recognizes the importance of avoiding and minimizing impacts of municipal operations on pollinators and other species.

Website Screenshot, Photo Credit Laura Janway



Remote Environmental Advisory Board Meeting (2022), Photo Credit Laura Janway

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Town of Carrboro Updated IPM Policy 2017.pdf](#)

<https://carrboro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5130508&GUID=08B62D57-39ED-4B43-A31D-70ADE58863D2>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>