

# Bee City USA - Charter Township of Ypsilanti

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 Township owns a park in the middle of Ford Lake, called Big Island Park. A student from the Michigan State University Extension for his capstone project removed invasive plants from the island (including buckthorn, autumn olive and honeysuckle). This in turn will help the native plants on the island park to thrive. These include sumac, bur oak, hackberry, and American elm. Work to be continued in 2024 includes adding signage to help educate park goers about native plants and pollinators.

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

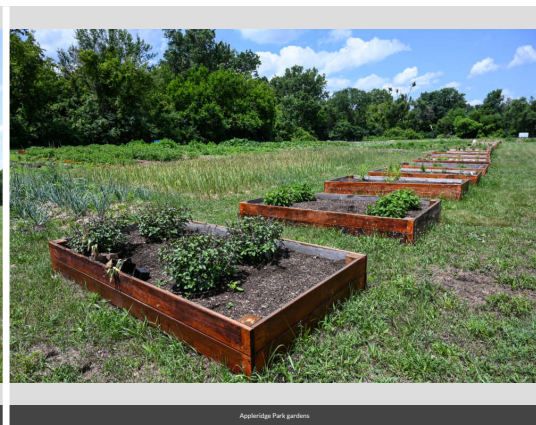
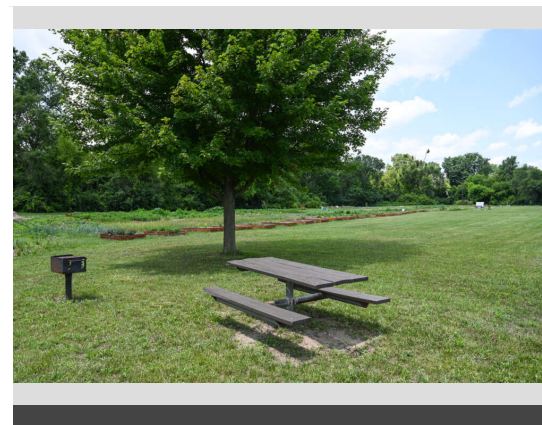
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*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

10

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Appleridge Park gardens



Big Island Park project, clearing out invasives to make room for native species

## Education & Outreach

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

**We did not host any events ourselves this year. However, we implemented a new position, Community Events Manager, who is also part of the bee committee! We are excited for the events to come in 2024. We have an agreement with community partner, nonprofit Willow Run Acres, to provide them with a garden space in one of our neighborhood park named Appleridge Park. There, they host a variety of different events, and have volunteers assist with the planting of different fruits and vegetables on raised garden beds, as well as native plants that attract native pollinators.**

*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.*

**We have had a written pest management plan in place for four years, and it is adhered to by employees, contractors, and includes the Township owned golf course.**

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

**Our pest management policy is adhered to by employees and contractors.**

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

**Some members receive newsletters on pest management and have attended webinars.**

*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)**

*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.*

**Our zoning ordinances encourage business owners and developers to plant native species, and there are discussions about adding in verbiage about pest management.**

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

**We were excited to learn about beautiful native seed mixes that we would like to implement at new pollinator gardens this summer.**



A few members of the bee committee with Bee City USA when they came to visit

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://ytown.org/bee-city-usa>