

Bee City USA - Clarkson

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.

On June 3, 2023, the City of Clarkson, with assistance from the Public Trails Association of Grayson County and a local greenhouse, dedicated the City's first Pollinator Garden at Clarkson City Park. An area 16 feet by 20 feet (320 square feet) was tilled and mulched and approximately 75 annual and perennial plants were planted, included day lilies, marigolds, and many more. Eight logs were then placed nearby for visitors to set on and enjoy Pollinator Garden. Link to an article about the Pollinator Garden in our newspaper: https://www.messenger-inquirer.com/grayson_county/pollinator-garden-opens-in-clarkson-park/article_1e355063-8dd7-5394-ad02-216c0bc0ddb8.html A mason bee nesting box was also installed in the garden, along a sign with the Bee City USA logo and a plaque commemorating the dedication of the garden. Later two metal benches were donated to the park. One was placed at end of our nature trail nearby, while the other was erected next to the Pollinator Garden. As part of the dedication ceremony, a teacher from a local daycare center read stories aloud to parents and children setting on blankets in front of the Pollinator Garden. Several of the attendees at the dedication then went for a hike on the nature trail, as the dedication was held in connection with National Trails Day activities at the City Park. The festivities also featured scavenger and painted rock hunts. The City has added a section the Parks & Recreation page of our website dedicated to the new Pollinator Garden. Link: <https://www.cityofclarkson.com/parks-recreation> Plans are already in the works to revitalize and expand the Pollinator Garden this spring and summer. Pollinator friendly plants and flowers will also be planted in this year in a large flowerbed area underneath a welcome sign on the other side of our park. There is also some talk of potentially planting a second pollinator garden at the City Park in the next few years.

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?

10

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

1

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

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

- Flower garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)



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 Clarkson celebrated Pollinator Week the last week of September during the City's annual Honeyfest. The Honeyfest celebrates the City's ties to the beekeeping industry. We are home to the Kelley Beekeeping Company, one of the largest distributors of bee-keeping supplies in the country. Our Honeyfest, which was in its 28th year in 2023, has been declared the "Official State Honey Festival" by the Kentucky General Assembly. This honor was established by law in 2006, and is listed among Kentucky's other state symbols and emblems (Link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=35>). Clarkson has also been proclaimed the "Honey Bee Capital of Kentucky" by the General Assembly. In 2023, we asked the Governor to once again issue a proclamation

celebrating bees and other pollinators by declaring the month of September as "Honey Month" in Kentucky. And the City Commission issued a proclamation declaring August 19, 2023 as "Honey Bee Awareness Day." At the City's annual Honeyfest last year, there were several local vendors on hand honey as well as food and other related items made from honey and other products that were produced with help from pollinators. Lastly, in June 2023 the City planted and dedicated our first pollinator garden at Clarkson City Park.

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

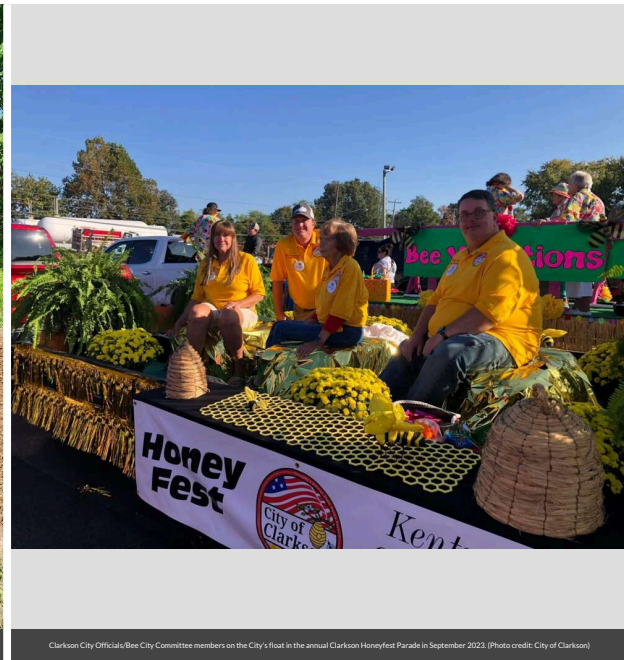
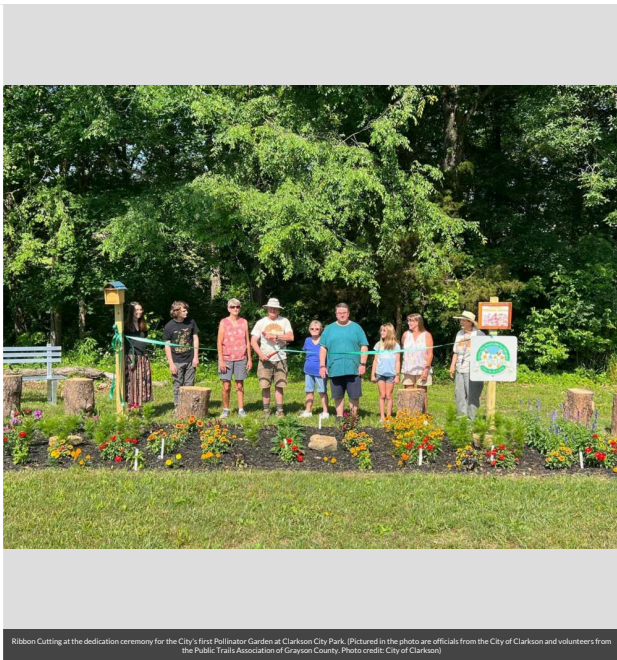
1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

35

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

4





Bee City USA street sign on one of welcome signs into the City. (Photo credit: City of Clarkson). (The City hopes to upgrade our Bee City USA signs to the new Bee City logo in the next year or two)

Policies & Practices

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

We are not spraying chemicals on the pollinator garden or other areas of our City Park.

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

None that I am aware of.

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

No.

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.

None at this time.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Every little bit helps when it comes to protecting bees and other pollinators.



The City of Clarkson Pollinator Garden with the mason bee nesting box, Bee City USA sign, and dedication plaque in the background. (Photo credit: City of Clarkson)



Clarkson City Officials/Bee City USA Committee members. From left to right: Michael Anderson (City Commissioner), Joyce Bell (City Commissioner), Scotty Gore (City Clerk-Treasurer), Bonnie Henderson (Mayor), Ed Schott (City Commissioner), and Rick Hussel (City Commissioner). (Photo credit: City of Clarkson)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV_Bee_KY-Pollinator-Pro-Plan.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

<http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-kytn.htm>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.knps.org/native-plant-suppliers-service-providers-listing/>

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