

Bee City USA - College Park

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.

Participated in Good Neighbor Day (Themed – Save the Pollinators) through partnerships at Lake Artemesia, Lackawanna and 53rd Avenue, Calvert Road and Rhode Island Avenue, American Legion Post 217, Trolley Trail Permaculture Garden, Latin Youth Center, and Cherokee Street Demonstration Garden. Partnered with USGS BeeLab in Beltsville. Grew 1,300 seedlings in pots that were distributed to the public and planted in city created pollinator gardens that were planted by volunteers at several city events.

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

10

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

58

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

8

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

22000

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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

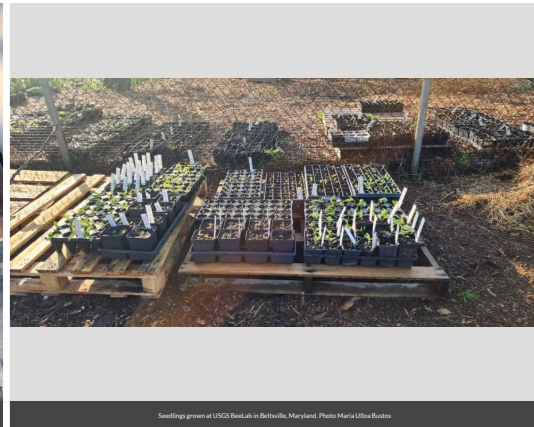
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Plants grown at BeeLab are being transported to Pollinator event for Pollinator Week at University of Maryland. Photo Michael Ellis



The city of College Park and volunteers from the College Park Arts Exchange have painted several storm drain murals with Chesapeake Bay themed wildlife, and the message "Only Rain Down the Drain". Photo Maria Ullas-Bustos



Seedlings grown at USGS BeeLab in Beltsville, Maryland. Photo Maria Ullas-Bustos

Education & Outreach

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

Participated in the College Park Parade, distributed seed packages along the route, about 700 residents attended. Hosted Pollinator Week event with University of Maryland Bee City USA Campus. Showed "My Garden of a Thousand Bees" by film maker Martin Horn and distributed native plants beneficial to pollinators to the public. Participated in College Park Days. Distributed information to about 300 visitors, including educational materials on pollinators, a coloring booklet for children, and seed packets.

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)?

800

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

3



Ian Hew with College Park Bee City Hotel sign at a meeting of the Maryland Municipal League, in Ocean City, Maryland.



Cherokee Demonstration Garden, Photo Maria Ulloa Bustos



Policies & Practices

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

Educated residents on which chemicals to avoid, to protect pollinators and what actions to take to improve water runoff quality.

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

Residents and the city can request no mosquito spraying from the State operated truck with application equipment on the street at their property. Applications made by state technicians occur only after landing or trap counts exceed thresholds. No blanket applications are made. Stormwater management structures are being installed in conjunction with development projects that capture slow and filter rainwater before it enters creeks and streams to help filter out pollutants. Storm drain inlets are also being marked with medallions or colorfully painted murals with native animals found in local waterways to increase awareness about only storm water down the drain. Educational information provided during No Mow April recommends reducing pesticides use at this time when early season pollinators are active.

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

The Staff liaison and landscape staff attend approved annual training to renew their state issued pesticide certifications, and there are always sessions that review IPM principles. A committee member is a professor in Entomology at the University of Maryland and assisted with drafting and review of our IPM plan.

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
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds

- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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 city maintains and implements a written 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.) The city encourages the use of GAT traps, for residential mosquito control as a mechanism to help reduce Asian tiger mosquito populations in residential areas and the need for state sponsored insecticide spraying by vehicles travelling on neighborhood streets. Educational information is distributed to residents during mosquito season about the need to eliminate standing water on their property to reduce mosquito breeding sites.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Slowly changing residents’ minds.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CP IPM program AE BA.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant Guide for Pollinators.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2823/Native-Plant-Guide-for-Pollinators?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Local native plant vendor List 2023.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4203/Local-native-plant-vendor-List-2023>

