

Bee City USA - City of Denton

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 Denton Sustainable Schools program promotes sustainable actions through effective recycling and environmental stewardship. Several schools within Denton ISD maintain wildflower and pollinator gardens with their students. Over the past year, several of these schools added to their gardens in a variety of ways including expansion, addition of a water source for pollinators, or the addition of milkweed.

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

6

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

67

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

4

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

400

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...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Students from DISD planting Mistflower in their school garden. Photo by Kim Jennings



DISD students and teacher next to their newly created campus garden. Photo by Kim Jennings

Education & Outreach

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

Over the course of 2023, the City hosted several pollinator focused classes and included pollinator education into classes that had a relevant focus. The pollinator focused classes included wildlife games, beekeeping 101, and pollinator pals. Beekeeping 101 was presented by the Denton County Beekeepers Association and provided information to residents that may be interested in creating inviting environments for native bees as well as traditional beekeeping practices. Both wildlife games and pollinator pals were classes targeted toward children ages 5 to 11. In wildlife games, the kids participate in several activities that imitate what some animals do in the wild. One of those games mimics a monarch going flower to flower and transferring pollen. Pollinator pals takes an in-depth look at how different pollinators can move pollen between plants and why this action is important for the plants. Our native planting classes, which include gardening on the go, native landscaping, and wildlife habitat, have a focus on plant selection with a strong emphasis placed on attracting native pollinators. Lastly, we offer several wildlife classes including birds of north Texas, feathered friends, and animals of Halloween, all of which talk about different pollinating animals, including less known ones like birds, moths, beetles, and bats.

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

14

How many people attended those events (in total)?

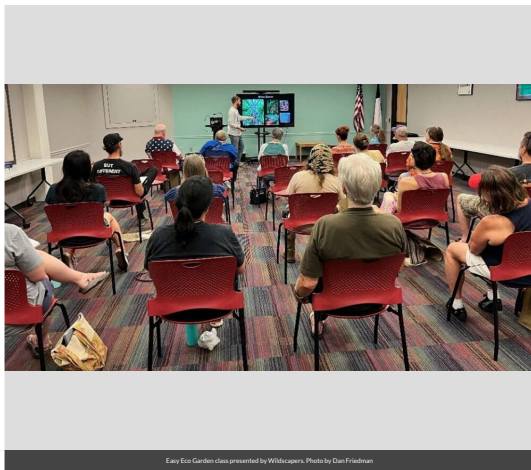
687

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

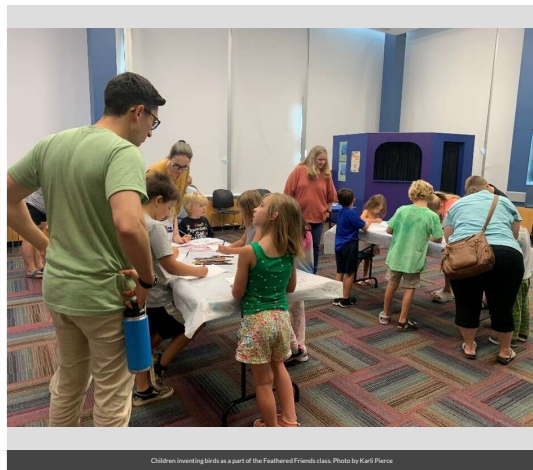
4



Pollinator Pals class at North Branch Library. Photo by Kerl Pierce



Easy Eco Garden class presented by Wildcoopers. Photo by Dan Friedman



Children investigating birds as part of the Feathered Friends class. Photo by Kerl Pierce



Policies & Practices

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

The City of Denton has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan for all City landscapes. There are many proactive actions including plant selection and landscape design, milkweed and native wildflowers are often used to add to the beauty of city landscapes while also creating low and no mow areas. When pests get to a level of infestation that creates significant negative impacts, the site is evaluated for the best control method. Non-chemical control is attempted first with a reevaluation after action is taken. If it is determined that chemical control is required, all efforts will be made to use the least toxic, most effective, and most efficient chemical. It will be applied when the pests are at their most vulnerable stages and when it carries the least possible impact for people, property, and the environment.

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

The City of Denton currently participates in an Integrated Pest Management Plan that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize risk. The pest control method is determined by assessing the nature of the site, possible health and safety effects, possible environmental effects, costs, and characteristics of the products used. Upon the consideration of each category, the most appropriate pest control measure is used.

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

We did not attend any continuing education on IPM this past year.

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.

While there is not currently a unified effort to reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas, many members of the public are choosing to be pesticide-free. The City does encourage residents, businesses, and schools to participate in native landscaping and the creation of wildlife habitat in compliance with the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program. A requirement of this program is the reduction or elimination of chemical and pesticide use. There is also an Integrated Pest Management webpage on the City website that outlines how the City utilizes IPM and strategies that can be explored by everybody.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Engaging students at school has been a great way to spread environmental stewardship. Not only are they creating habitat on their campus, the students take what they learn home and engage their parents.



Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.cityofdenton.com/219/Integrated-Pest-Management-IPM-Resources>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mtianpd6frl36gj/NPSOT%20North%20Central%20TX%20List%2020.0719%20fixed.pdf?e=1&dl=0>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.npsot.org/our-work/nice-native-plant-partners/>

<http://sustainabledenton.com>

sustainabledenton@cityofdenton.com

<https://instagram.com/http://City%20of%20Denton%20Sustainability>

<https://facebook.com/http://City%20of%20Denton%20Sustainability>