

Bee City USA - Elm Grove

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.

Our group helped install a Monarch bed in conjunction with a local Boy Scout Eagle project at the Pilgrim Park Middle School. It included New England asters, showy goldenrod, common milkweed, butterfly milkweed, swamp milkweed, and wild petunia (endangered in WI).

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

5

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

25

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

5

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

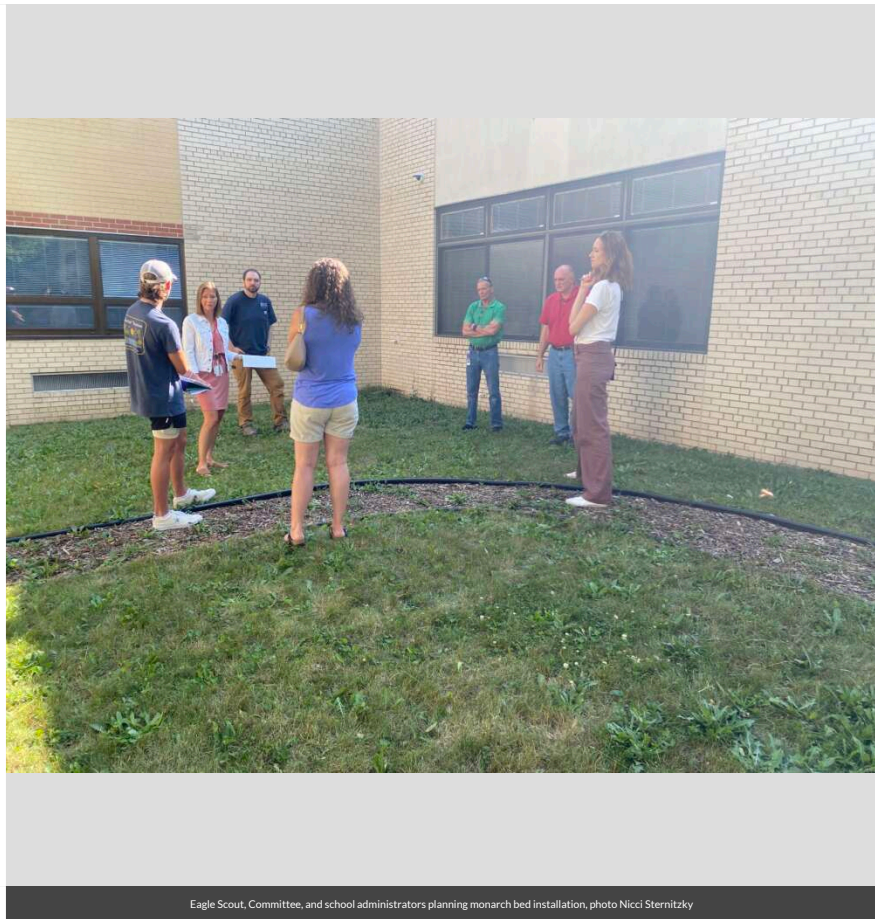
500

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

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden



Annual plant sale—sold 1006 native plants in 2023, photo Nicci Sternitzky



Eagle Scout, Committee, and school administrators planning monarch bed installation, photo Nicci Sternitzky

Education & Outreach

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

Our committee, titled "The Beautification Committee" hosted all of the events related to pollinator conservation. These events included 29 meet-ups of the sub committee entitled The Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF). The ISTF met almost weekly through spring, summer, and fall in Wisconsin to eradicate invasive species. This started with garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket in the spring and ended with buckthorn and invasive honeysuckle in the fall. The group also held an Earth and Arbor Day celebration in which the LT Governor of Wisconsin presented our group with a commendation from the Governor for becoming the first municipality in the state to earn the National Wildlife Federation's Community Habitat. This designation allowed us to engage more residents on the importance of native plants, pesticide use reduction, and invasive species removal. The group also maintained two monarch waystations at our village park, a rain garden, and helped install another monarch waystation at a local school.

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

How many people attended those events (in total)?

100

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

2





This sign is at the main entrance to our village hall, photo Nicci Sternitzky

Policies & Practices

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

Our group continues to educate on the importance of integrative pest management. It does this with its weekly ISTF—publicizing that all of our efforts are without the use of pesticides. Our annual plant sale publicizing neonicotinoid free plants by assuring that our supplier continues to not use any on the plants we purchase.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- 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>)

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.

Yes, with our new spring ephemeral sale, we will continue to publicize the harmful effects of pesticide use. We have been starting to encourage the use of our DNR's Pesticide Registry and will increase our promotional efforts in 2024.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Pollinator Protection Program 6-28-21.pdf](https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3962/Pollinator-Protection-Program-6-28-21.pdf)

<https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3962/Pollinator-Protection-Program-6-28-21>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native plant list for Bee City.pdf](https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3363/Native-Plant-List.pdf)

<https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3363/Native-Plant-List>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native plant supplier for Bee City.pdf](https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3364/Native-Plant-Supplier-List?bidId=)

<https://elmgrove.wi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3364/Native-Plant-Supplier-List?bidId=>

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