

Bee City USA - Florence

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.

In 2023, two pollinator habitats were created—the first was a community cultural garden at the City Center Farmers Market led by the committee and partners and funded by a grant program. The items planted were native vegetable crops tended to by a local master gardener and committee member. The other pollinator habitat was a partnership project to improve a pedestrian corridor in our downtown area. One of the partners is a committee member. That resulted in over 11,000 sq. ft. of new pollinator habitat created as well as interpretive signage inclusive of the importance of protecting and conserving public space for pollinators. Features of this habitat include planted beds with pollinator supporting native shrubs, flowers, and trees as well as a bald cypress bioswale planted with pollinator species.

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

2

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

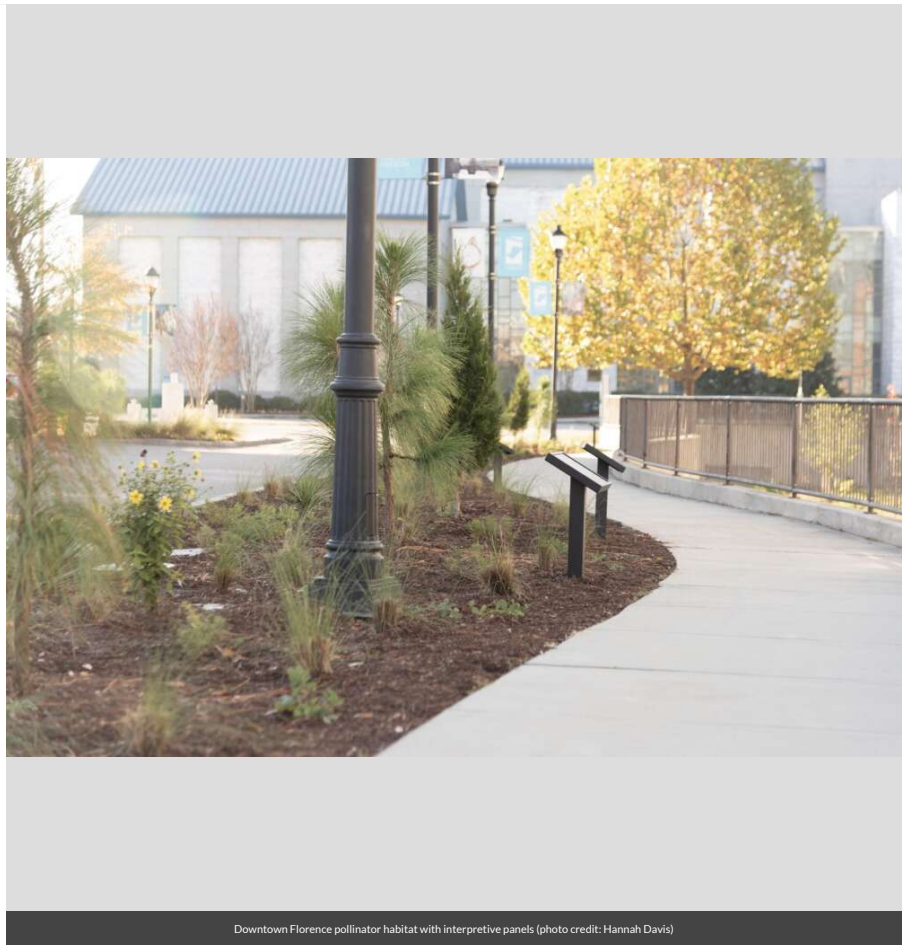
5

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

11026

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

- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- Other



Downtown Florence pollinator habitat with interpretive panels (photo credit: Hannah Davis)

Education & Outreach

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

In 2023, we hosted a National Pollinator Week Farmers' Market takeover event which included pollinator awareness activities for kids, distribution of native wildflower species plants and seeds, extension services, and resulted in over 900 attendees. The committee planned and executed this event. Additionally, several committee members participated in the statewide bee keepers conference.

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)?

985



Policies & Practices

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

This is an objective for 2024 and 2025. We have added two public works staff members to our Bee City Committee to help implement additional appropriate pollinator-friendly measures at the local level.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
None in 2023. We are exploring for 2024.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
Yes, members from the committee participated in the South Carolina statewide beekeepers conference, which included pest management training.

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

- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- 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.

This is a goal for 2024—to enhance materials available on our website to support pollinator conservation, reduce pesticide use in residential and business areas, and build awareness for our local pollinators.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We learned a lot about succession planning since our staff member who was directly responsible for the upkeep of the Bee City renewal left with little instruction for the new co-chairs.

[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)