

Bee City USA - Gainesville

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.

☑ Bee City Gainesville's first native plant/pollinator garden was installed at Grow Hub in October. This garden will serve as a demonstration of how people can incorporate native plants into their home landscapes for the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife. Zamia Design, a local landscape design firm specializing in native plants, donated their services and provided a design and plant list. The garden was established in an area adjacent to Grow Hub's native plant nursery, and utilized species that are grown by Grow Hub and available for purchase. Approximately 40 people attended the planting event to help install the plants and to learn more about the program and how they might become involved. An educational sign was also installed, which included a QR code that links to a page dedicated to the Grow Hub garden. The page features information on Bee City, Grow Hub, and profiles of all the plants used in the garden. Plant ID signs have been ordered and will be installed soon. ☑ A pollinator garden was established along the northern perimeter of Dreamers Garden, a City-owned community garden. One City staff member and four volunteers completed the installation. ☑ As part of the "Downtown Refresh," an unutilized area adjacent to a City parking garage was planted with 183 pollinator plants. The area consisted mainly of turf and several small live oaks. Four of the oaks were suppressed, and were removed to allow more light into the planting area. Three staff and 15 volunteers assisted in planting 183 plants. ☑ A median in the 2200 block of NW 6th Place was planted with pollinator-friendly species. One staff member completed this planting.

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

4

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

65

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

4

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

5656

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

- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- Other



Education & Outreach

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

☑ Bee City Gainesville tabled at the Great Invader Raider Rally, hosted by the City of Gainesville. This annual event brings out volunteers to help remove invasive species from the city's natural areas. A celebration follows, including activities and exhibits from local conservation groups. We presented information on the Bee City Gainesville program, and gave out Bee City bookmarks and other native plant-related handouts provided by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. ☑ Bee City Gainesville also tabled at the Pollinator Palooza event in June. This event was held at First Magnitude Brewery and was hosted by the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History McGuire Center for Lepidoptery. This event included a native plant giveaway and exhibits from local conservation groups. We gave out free milkweed plants (donated by Grow Hub, our partner in the first Bee City planting) and provided Bee City bookmarks and other native plant-related handouts from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. For the children, we had a native plant/pollinator bingo game and a native pollinator display. ☑ The initial Bee City planting at Grow Hub also provided an opportunity to give away Bee City bookmarks and other native plant-related materials.

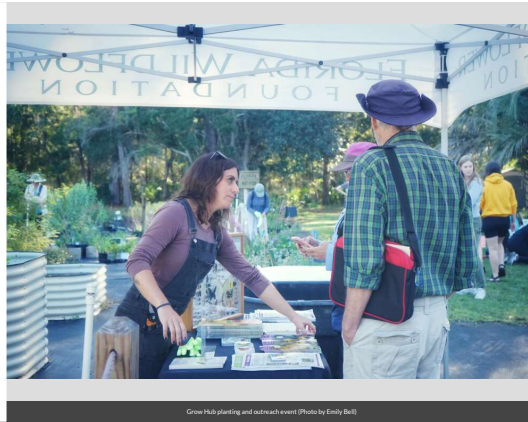
How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

3

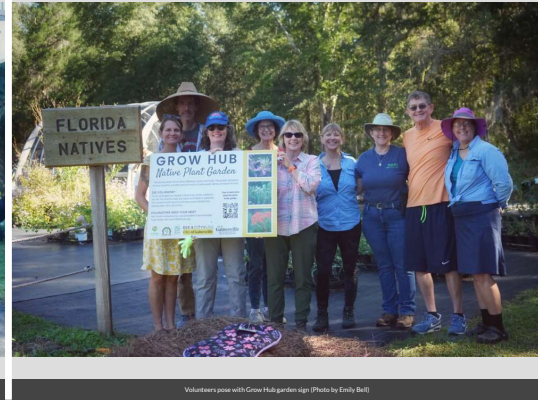
How many people attended those events (in total)?



Pollinator Palooza (Photo by Stacey Matraccio)



Grow Hub planting and outreach event (Photo by Emily Bell)



Volunteers pose with Grow Hub garden sign (Photo by Emily Bell)

Policies & Practices

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

☑ For the Grow Hub garden, the site was solarized, so no herbicides or other chemicals were used during site preparation. No fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides will be used in the maintenance of the garden. ☑ The City has an IPM regarding mosquito control. We are looking into the process of developing a broader policy. ☑ The committee will review and, when possible, utilize the resources provided in the Pesticide Reduction Outreach Kit.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
The City currently has an IPM policy for mosquito control. We are looking into the process of developing a broader policy.

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.
Not at this time, but our committee will explore options.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
Not at this time.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Community-Pages/Community/About-Gainesville/Bee-City-USA%C2%AE-City-of-Gainesville>

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