

# Bee City USA - Gastonia

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 the fall of 2022 we created our "mini meadows" at all 7 of our fire stations. This was a large effort from so many people, but in the spring/summer of 2023 they all bloomed beautifully. At the end of the season, they were mowed down just once and are already sprouting back this season. In our community garden we have space where we plant pollinator friendly seeds and around our shed and sign always have native flowers.

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

3

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

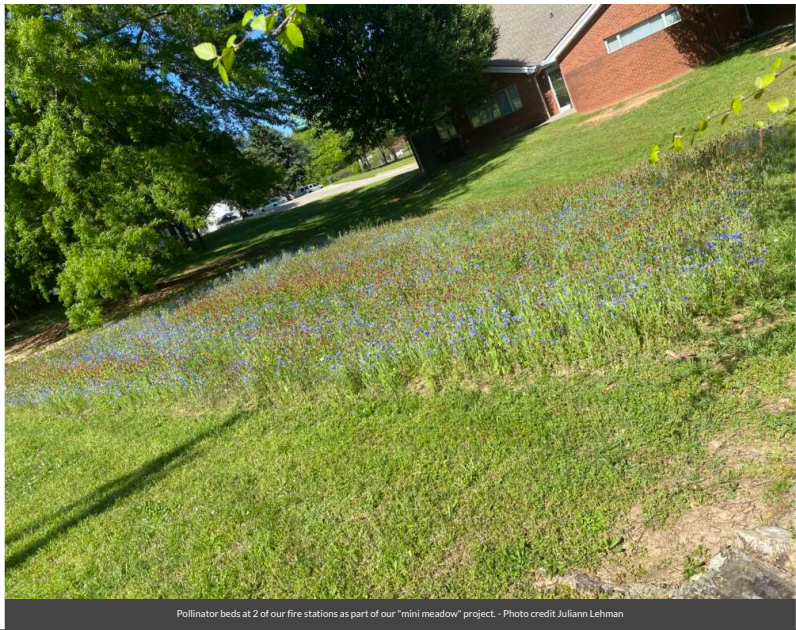
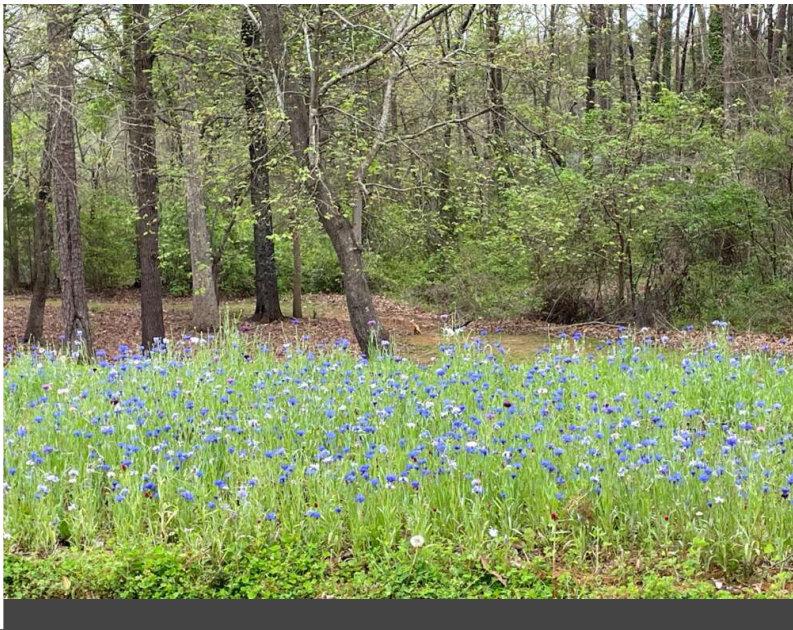
55

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

1000

*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



Pollinator beds at 2 of our fire stations as part of our "mini meadow" project. - Photo credit Juliann Lehman

## Education & Outreach

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

Each year we host our annual BEEtopia event at our Farmers Market. This has a great variety of vendors both educational and crafty plus all the Farmers for people to explore and experience more about bees. The highlight of the event is always the Beekeepers area where their live hive brings people up close to a hive and live demonstrations. We teach a program called Bee the Change and during 2023 this was presented to kindergarten classes and reached 183 students. We use our educational puppet "Miss Polly Nator" to help us get the message out. We also did a Farm to Table program in the summer of 2023 that reached 547 students. This not only taught them where their food comes from, but we talk about pollination/bees and have a honey tasting at the end of each lesson.

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

20

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

2230

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

7



Master Gardener volunteers are always ready to answer any question! - photo credit Juliann Lehman



Miss Polly Nator is always the BUZZ of the event!



New Bee City USA sign at one of our major cross roads in Gastonia.

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## Policies & Practices

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

**In our community garden we do not allow our Gardners to use pesticides. Our parks and rec follow all protocol set.**

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

**At this time, there are no specific initiatives to further protect the pollinators.**

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

**While our committee members do not take CE our Parks and Recreation staff do and they work with us daily to help promote pollinators and better pest management, especially in our designated pollinator beds and many downtown beds.**

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

- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan

*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 we used the no mow May and leave the leaves, our efforts to reduce pesticides in either residential or business areas has been unsuccessful.

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

[https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Integrated\\_Pest\\_Management.pdf](https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Integrated_Pest_Management.pdf)

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

[https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee\\_City/2017-049\\_Mid-AtlanticPlantList\\_Dec2017\\_web-3page.pdf](https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [2017-049\\_Mid-AtlanticPlantList\\_Dec2017\\_web-3page.pdf](https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf)

<https://gardeningwithcreekside.com/>

<https://www.cityofgastonia.com/bee-city-usa.html>

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