

Bee City USA - Gloucester County

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.

Gloucester's Bee City Committee removed invasive shrubs and plants from an area in our local park Beaverdam. Then added many different native plants including a few milkweed varieties. All the native plants that were added to our garden were brought in from the gardens of Committee members who are active Master Gardeners or Master Naturalists, and all were grown without the use pesticides. Bee City Committee gave away wildflower seed bombs for a Christmas event to local children in hopes to spread the love to local pollinators.

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

1

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

15

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

1

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

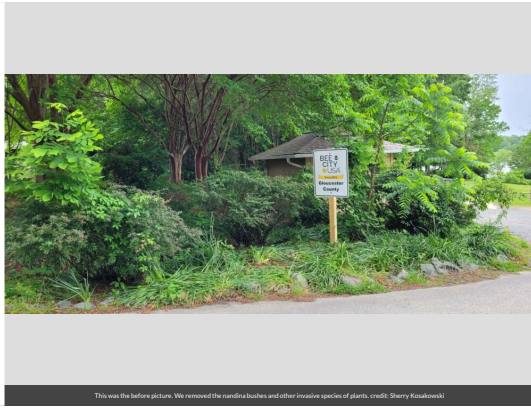
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Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

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



After planting the new Native Plant pollinator garden credit: Sherry Knaakowski



This was the before picture. We removed the nandina bushes and other invasive species of plants. credit: Sherry Knaakowski



After removal. Lots of hard work went into this project. credit: Beverly Holmberg

Education & Outreach

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

Our Bee City events got off to a great start in 2023, we first participated in the Christmas parade which spread the word that Gloucester is now a Bee City! After that we held a meet and greet type event to introduce the public to what Bee City is and our committee members. We also were invited to speak to 4 different clubs in Gloucester. We had a table at the Daffodil Festival, which brings about 15,000 visitors to our county. During pollinator week, we had a beautiful, educational display table set up at Brent & Becky's Bulbs. In the Fall and Spring, our liaison spoke with 400-4th graders and 40-7th graders during MWEE at our local park, Beaverdam. Bee City Committee of Gloucester was all the buzz at Ware Church's Art Walk in April and again at Gloucester's new Farmer's Market at Ware Church in July. It was a productive year for our committee.

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

11

How many people attended those events (in total)?

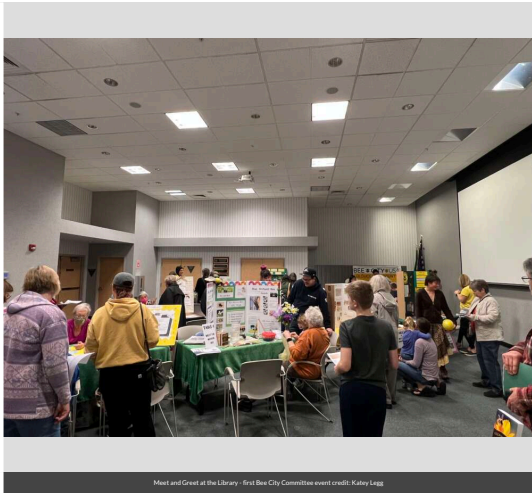
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How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

1



Gloucester County Holiday Parade Credit: Susan Ammons



Meet and Greet at the Library - First Bee City Committee event credit: Katy Legg



Ware Church Farmer's Market of Gloucester set up Credit: Ryan Kosakowski



Policies & Practices

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

We spoke with over 600 people about discontinuing the use of pesticides in their gardens and alternative methods to help deter pests. We also gave out hand outs that explained this information. The committee created an IPM as a resource for residents to use as a guide for pest management in their yards and gardens, which is available online.

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

We are currently putting together a guide for residents to bring awareness of what is in their environment and what alternatives they can use to prevent pesticide use in their yards.

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

Some of the committee attended the webinars, *Herbicides: A Double-Edged Sword? What We Know about Herbicide Impacts on Pollinators, Ecologically – Sound Mosquito Management at Home, Practitioners Talk About IPM: Turning Lemons into Lemonade, Simplifying Your Outreach: A Template on "How to Reduce Pesticides at Home"*

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- 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.

In all our interactions with the public we emphasize the importance of planting natives and avoiding use of pesticides. We have been using our IPM as a talking point and have been handing it out to landscapers and other groups in our county who can make a change.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Most people are not aware there is a difference between honeybees and native bees. The only really know the honeybee. Spreading the education throughout our county has really opened the eyes of those we have presented to. The public was very receptive and interested in ways to help native bees and other pollinators.



Sherry Kosakowski, presenting on best practices to support local pollinators to Gloucester/Mathews Garden Club on Bee City and how to support pollinators naturally



The Bee City Committee of Gloucester with our Bee City USA sign at Beaverdam Park, Gloucester, VA credit: Susan Ammons

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Bee City USA IPM Final 2024.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Short List of Gloucester Native Plants.pdf](#)

<https://gloucesterva.gov/clean-community/blog/native-plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers.docx](#)

<https://gloucesterva.gov/clean-community#beecity>
cleancommunity@gloucesterva.info

<https://www.instagram.com/visitgloucesterva/?hl=en>

<https://facebook.com/GloucesterParks,Recreation&Tourism>