

Bee City USA - Hendersonville

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.

1. Brooklyn Community Garden is currently in the construction phase of an expansion and revitalization of the garden. Grading and erosion control will be completed this year along with ongoing invasive species removal. Spring/summer 2024 will be the completion of the project with new garden beds, ADA-accessible beds, taller beds for older gardeners, a blueberry house, children's area, beehouse, pollinator plantings and more. Project co-organized with City Sustainability Manger (also one of the staff liaisons to the committee) 2. The Tree Board continued their work in increasing pollinator sites throughout the City, this time with a ¼ acre pollinator garden on Four Seasons Boulevard. Plants include Dogwoods, sunflowers, Sourwood, and more. Being situated on one of the busiest intersections in Hendersonville, this site will serve as a shining example of the City's commitment to pollinators. The Tree Board also continued to fund maintenance for the Bearcat Loop and downtown pollinator beds. 3. In the May City Council Meeting, the Environmental Sustainability Board recommended a partnership between Hendersonville and Blue Ridge Community College, BRC to expand the number of pollinator plants throughout the City. Under the agreement BRC's Horticulture Department would grow native plants from seeds and provide half of plants to City. A video recording recapping the proposal can be found here: <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/news/council-recap-may-2023> 4. Completed by the City's Property Maintenance Division led by City Property Maintenance Superintendent (also one of the staff liaisons to the committee) conducted an invasive species removal project on Ridgeview Drive for a myriad of invasives. They also sprayed for Japanese Knotweed at various locations including Patton Park. 5. The Environmental Sustainability Board provided matching funding for the creation of the Brooklyn Creek Bird Sanctuary which was completed in August. Wild Birds Unlimited partnered in this project by donating the rest of the bird feeders and food. 6. The City of Hendersonville planted four pollinator garden beds on the Oklawaha Greenway with a pollinator seed mix.

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

6

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

13

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

4

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

115823

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
- Orchard
- Meadow
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



View of Four Seasons Boulevard pollinator planting



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the completion of the bird sanctuary attended by Hendersonville Mayor Barbara Volk, Crystal Cadey, the main volunteer driving the project and other volunteer partners.



Kickstarting the Brooklyn Community Garden revitalization and expansion, project partners met for a breakfast hosted by A Place To Go founder, Bonnie Pepper who has been instrumental in the success of the project. We were also joined by City staff and City Council member Lynelky Simpson as well as volunteers. An overview of the garden project was presented as well as discussion of next steps.

Education & Outreach

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

Events hosted by committee and/or City of Hendersonville: 1. Sponsored Symbolic Monarch Migration classrooms – The City of Hendersonville provided free registration for any public school, City resident, or non-profit group located within the City of Hendersonville up to 35 groups. 2. Hendo Earth Fest – The committee hosted the first annual Hendo Earth Fest which featured 28 booths, and saw approximately 2,500 visitors. 3. 15th Annual Flock to the Rock which

included a Bee City USA booth at event 4. Guided Tree Walk on Hendersonville's Main Street which was held Sunday, August 20 - 2 p.m. Sponsored by the committee, City arborist Bill Leatherwood lead a walk along Main Street to discuss how the various types of trees and shrubs are maintained and supported to a create stress-free environment for healthy plants. 5. Educational Walkabout - This event was a guided stroll along the projected Oklawaha Greenway extension which includes a pollinator-friendly meadow. The event was held on November 5th, 2023 at 2pm and was sponsored by the committee. 6. Bullington Garden's Spring Plant Sale held on April 27, 28, and 29, 2023 with a Bee City booth 7. Garden Jubilee which was held May 26, 27, and 28 with a Bee City booth 8. Pollinator Day at Hendo Train Depot with a Bee City booth Below is a non-exhaustive list of additional pollinator conservation events in our community not hosted by the committee: 1. 28th Annual Symbolic Monarch Migration to Mexico. Our committee provided funds to sponsor classrooms to participate. This event was held mid-August to Friday, October 20th, 2023 and was presented by Bee City USA - Hendersonville and Bullington Gardens. 2. Hendersonville Farmers Market booth Saturday, September 16th, 2023 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Historic Train Depot presented by Milkweed Meadows Farm. Not hosted by committee. 3. Multiple presentations by Milkweed Meadows Farm throughout the year with a focus on Monarchs but also including bees and other pollinators. Not hosted by committee. 4. Multiple volunteer workdays at the Brooklyn Community Garden for invasive species removal. Not hosted by committee 5. 9 additional pollinator events were hosted locally and regionally that were posted on Hendersonville's Bee City USA website.

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

8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

3230

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

4



Environmental Sustainability Board member, Mary Ellen Kustin volunteered with her environmental advocate kiddos for Hendo Earth Fest.



Environmental Sustainability Board member, Virginia Tegel used the City's pollinator exploration kit to teach a group of children the importance of pollinators.



Policies & Practices

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

1. All our tree maintenance is completed by Leatherwood Wildland Management who maintains an IPM plan and implements non-chemical practices where possible such as using organic horticultural oil, essentially using synthetic pesticides as a last result if organic methods aren't successful or if needed for invasive species removal. 2. Synthetic pesticides and herbicides are never used on pollinator sites. 3. The City is incorporating an overall goal to expand on the efforts to reduce synthetic pesticides and herbicides in upcoming Sustainability Strategic Plan.

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

The City is in the process of adopting a sustainability strategic plan which will include a focus area of land management.

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

The City of Hendersonville Public Works Department employees (not committee) are trained in best practices for IPM and pesticides are not used within pollinator habitat areas.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

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.

A letter was sent from the Tree Board to garden companies that participate in Garden Jubilee encouraging them to refrain from selling any invasive plant species. There is also continuous neighborhood efforts for No-Mow May though Bee City Hendersonville is not directly involved in this effort.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

One lesson learned is the importance of knowing your City's staff bandwidth and knowledge when it comes to increasing pollinator habitat. Oftentimes this requires additional and more specialized staffing. We have found importance in first ensuring a project is able to properly be maintained before being initiated. This all ensures long-term success and sustainability for our Bee City program.



Two public input gatherings were held to gain input for the City's sustainability strategic plan. A table on land management was stationed to collect feedback on importance of pollinator landscaping and reduction of synthetic pesticide and herbicide use, among other topics.



Five Environmental Sustainability Board members presenting an award to 2023 Sustainability Hero, Mike Huffman

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/advisory-boards-commissions-and-committees/tree-board/bee-city>
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