

# Bee City USA - Hillsborough

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.*

**The Tree Board:** Hosted weekly invasive species removal projects. Had nine work days hosted at our pollinator garden and bee hotel and local park. **Town Staff:** Planted, weeded, watered, and maintained several gardens at public parks and cemeteries. Maintained multiple compost blankets.

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

**145**

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

**16**

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

**1**

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

**81147**

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Volunteers work on clearing invasive species along a local park.

## Education & Outreach

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

Hosted with the Hillsborough Garden Club: 500 Free wildflower seed packets distributed during pollinator week at multiple locations in Town. Two open gardens tours. Bee photo scavenger hunt. Publicized pollinator information by flyers, social media posts, and local news paper articles. Encouraged merchants and organizations to observe Pollinator

Week with product promotions, displays, window decorations, etc. Hosted by the Town and the Tree Board:  
Encouraged no mow lawns with press releases. Promoted several education videos on the Town Website. Put out press releases regarding invasive species, pollinators, and other related information.

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

57

How many people attended those events (in total)?

750

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

2



Volunteers plant along the Eno River.

**National Pollinator Week 2023**  
**3rd Annual**  
**Hillsborough Bee Photo Scavenger Hunt**

**This is a Bee Station**

Contestants (individuals or teams) can compete for cool prizes.  
Take photos of numbered cartoon bees in downtown store windows that display a Bee Station poster on Saturday, June 14, 9am-3pm to be in a prize drawing.  
For complete Bee Hunt Rules, see [www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org](http://www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.org).

SPONSORED BY THE BEE CITY COMMITTEE OF THE HILLSBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB

Picture of our Bee Hunt Flyer to promote education on Pollinators.



## Policies & Practices

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

The Town does not have an IPM, but we do have a section regarding pest management in our contract for Grounds Maintenance. It reads “No pesticides or herbicides will be used in landscaped or lawn areas without prior written approval from the Project Contact for the Client. All chemicals shall be used in strict accordance with the intent of the Client to maintain a healthy, sustainable landscape that will minimize the need for and use of chemical controls.” Pesticide use on town property is limited to fire ants, and stinging insects only when they are nested within a children’s play area. We promote no mow gardens and alternative ways to deal with invasive species.

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

We have an ordinance to encourage No Mow landscapes. The Town is currently working on a official IPM. We continue to share and promote online resources and worked in coordination with the Master gardeners who produce educational videos such as: Edible Landscapes, Rain Gardens, and Native Plants/Pollinators and more. The videos are about 10-15 minutes long each and are posted on the Town Website.

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

While we do not currently have a formal IPM plan, it is an action item in recently adopted and is to be developed with the Tree Board's approval.

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

- 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)
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- 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>)

*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.*

We have a volunteer lead invasive removal team, publish articles to promote no mow lawns and limit the use of chemicals, and continue to promote pollinator friendly information during pollinator week.



Educated volunteers safely remove Invasive English Ivy without the use of pesticides and herbicides while protecting the health of the native trees and plants.

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Town Of Hillsborough.docx](#)

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

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [native-plant-and-seed-suppliers.pdf](#)

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

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