

Bee City USA - Lexington

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.

Lexington Living Landscapes continues to oversee the conversion of a knotweed-dominated area into a native plant meadow, and has also created a demonstration pollinator garden close to the center of town. Kindergarten to fifth-grade students researched and planted pollinator gardens at three elementary schools in town with the goal of better understanding the importance of pollinators and human connectedness with nature. The Conservation Division conducted meadow restoration management on West Farm Conservation Area. The second year of restoration management at West Farm mainly focused on non-native invasive plant management including but not limited to working collaboratively with the University of Rhode Island on the use of a biocontrol for management of black swallow-wort.

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

5

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

30

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

5

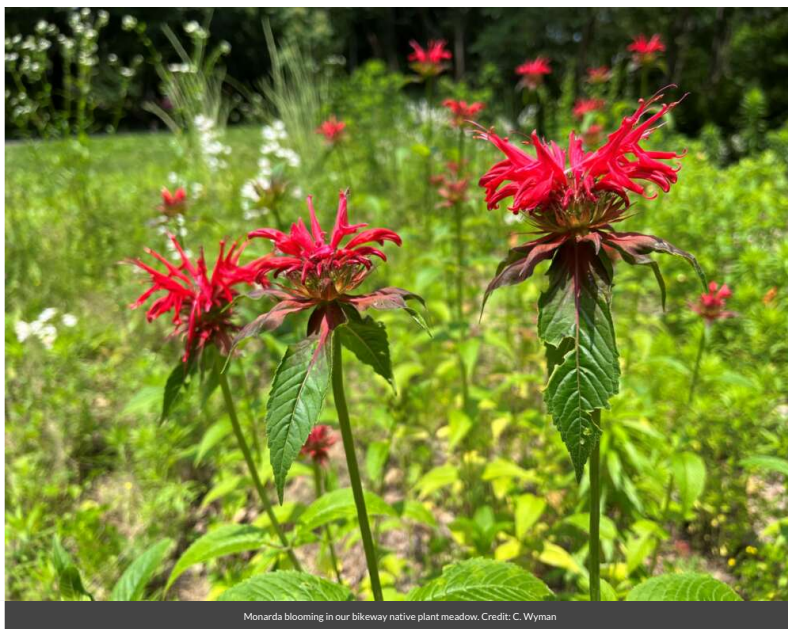
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

270000

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden



Monarda blooming in our bikeway native plant meadow. Credit: C. Wyman

Education & Outreach

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

Educational presentations: Lexington Living Landscapes, with support from Cary Memorial Library and the Lexington Conservation Division, offered the following programs online via Zoom during 2023: • Dave Goulson on Silent Earth: Saving Our Insects • Dave Bloniarz on Beyond Beauty: Establishing the Value of Urban and Suburban Trees • Trevor Smith on Gardening for Wildlife in an Era of Climate Change • Amy Meltzer on Gardening With Native Plants, Why and How: Providing Habitat for Pollinators, Birds and Other Essential Wildlife • Nick Dorian on The Secret Lives of Wild Bees • Sarah Evans on Lawn and Garden Chemicals and Our Children's Health; and • Claudia Thompson on Creating Landscapes for Bird Diversity. Citizens for Lexington Conservation hosted more than 20 field walks on Lexington conservation land. The CLC walks are designed to acquaint residents with Lexington's diverse conservation properties and to help educate them about the value of nature and biodiversity. Two sales of native plants were conducted during the year: • Spring native plant sale. At this event 1440 pollinator-friendly native plants from Bagley Pond Perennials were sold by the Lexington Conservation Division and Lexington Living Landscapes, as well as 50 plants grown in

Lexington's Native Plant Nursery. • Fall native plant sale. At the Lexington Farmers' Market Sustainability Day in September, 200 plants grown at the town's Native Plant Nursery were sold. Seed distribution events: • Lexington Living Landscapes distributed free native plant seeds from Lexington gardens at street fairs in the spring and fall. Native Plant Garden Tour: Lexington Living Landscapes hosted an Open Gardens Day in September, featuring 14 native plant gardens in town; approximately 100 individuals participated in the event.

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

12

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1200

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

1



Seedlings being prepared for our native plant sale. Credit: H. Samuels



Policies & Practices

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

At our Town Meeting this spring, members will vote on a proposal to ban the use of Second Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides on town property

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)
 - Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
 - Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: