

Bee City USA - Manassas

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.

We continue to enhance our existing meadows by planting native plants or sowing seed. We installed a pollinator friendly garden at our new addition to our City's museum. We have revamped several street medians removing old, tired plants and replacing them with native plants. We were prevented from planting more due to our yearlong drought. We spent a great deal of time keeping our plants alive.

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

2

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

15

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

2

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

7000

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



Our local beekeeper explaining the workings of the onsite bee hives at the Bee Festival



Installation of pollinator friendly plants in a new bed at the City of Manassas Museum



One of our natural areas

Education & Outreach

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

In June 2023, the City of Manassas hosted our annual Bee Festival at the historic Liberia House. It is a celebration of our efforts and outreach to our citizens and those of surrounding jurisdictions. We have educational booths along with vendors selling Native, Pollinator friendly plants, literature and other gardening accessories. The highlights are demonstrations and talks from our local beekeeper who maintains active beehives on the site. Children and adults alike enjoy interaction and the ability to see the hives close up. The City also celebrated its 150th Birthday. The crowds enjoyed demonstrations from all of our departments. Our department handed out native tree seedlings and literature promoting native pollinator friendly plants and various ways to promote pollinators through methods of leaving brush piles and using less or no pesticides.

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

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

4000

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

4



The City of Manassas Bee Festival, 2023



The City of Manassas Requalification Committee educational booth at the Bee Festival



Citizens inspecting a working bee hive at the Bee Festival



Our Bee City sign on Rt 28 coming into the city.

Policies & Practices

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

Pesticides are only used when absolutely necessary. Horticultural oils and pyrethroids are used to reduce toxic effects and flowering plants are never sprayed. Insects are removed by hand or water hose when possible. Beneficial insects are left to keep pest populations in check. We have replaced older plant material with new material that is more insect and disease resistant which means less pesticide applications. All of our applicators are trained and certified in the state of Virginia.

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

Our storm water management team continues to monitor existing and new projects designed to reduce runoff erosion

and prevent other unwanted materials from entering our waterways. They insure our efforts meet all required local, state and federal regulations to keep our streams clean.

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

Several members of our Beautification Committees are also Master Gardeners certified by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. As such they are required to complete 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of continuing education each year.

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

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.

Our Beautification Committee encourages the use of native, pollinator friendly plants and reducing pesticide use at their booth during community events. They have participated in volunteer events removing weeds by hand.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Being and promoting our designated Bee City status has shown our pride in keeping our city looking good while preserving our pollinator and butterfly populations. We find that many of our citizens are delighted to see such efforts and encourages them to increase their efforts also.



Signage in another natural area explaining the process



The Beautification Committee assembling our Christmas Baskets.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan 02-2023.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Meadow flowers-Va. natives.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Vendors 1-30-23.docx](#)

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