

Bee City USA - Mequon

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.

MNP is 510 acres of land that is converting the agricultural fields back into the historic prairies, wetlands, and forests. Staff and volunteers remove invasive species, plant hundreds of native tree and shrub species, and spread native prairie and wetland seed over the property. A local elementary school came to MNP and planted 2,500 native wetland plant plugs in one of the restoration project areas. MNP continued to work with the Sunrise Rotary Club in Mequon with their native pollinator garden initiative. MNP also had educational content through social media posts, workshops, and fliers on the importance of pollinators and how to help them. Every Thursday from May-October, staff led the MNP Restoration Rangers program. Volunteers worked alongside MNP staff in a variety of projects that included native tree and shrub planting, native seeding of prairies, monarch tagging, and invasive species removal.

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?

250

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

5

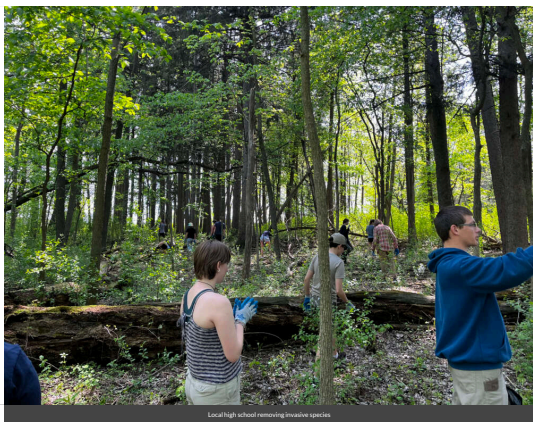
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1750000

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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb 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
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Other



Local high school removing invasive species



Local school planting native wildflower plants (photo by Amanda Neimont)



Native tree seedling planting with volunteers

Education & Outreach

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

Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) hosted one monarch tagging event. Citizens were able to catch and tag monarch butterflies as they made their migration to Mexico. Staff would also tag monarchs during the work day and with volunteer groups. This data is then uploaded to Monarch Watch. MNP staff also led native plant hikes as well as invasive species workshops, all free to the public. MNP teamed up with the Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary in promoting Operation Pollination. This program encourages the community, to sign the pledge to make pollinator friendly habitats in their yards. Both the City of Mequon and MNP are partners with the Rotary in this initiative. The City of Mequon hosted their annual Arbor Day event. Those that attend received free native tree seedlings. The inside observation hive inside the MNP Education Center was also installed. The MNP Bee Club continued to meet monthly and had a 4H program as well. Most of the club members have their hives at the MNP apiary. MNP also had an informational table at Mequon's Outpost Natural Foods' Monarchs and Milkweeds Day, which promoted the importance of pollinators.

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

17

How many people attended those events (in total)?

700

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

5



Community Monarch Tagging Event (photo by Amanda Neilson)



School group learning about spring ephemerals



Invasive species removal volunteer work day

Policies & Practices

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

Invasive species control efforts uses best management practices to ensure proper control without harm to non-target species. Using targeted spot mowing and spot treating with herbicides ensures control of target species and limits revisiting sensitive habitats.

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

MNP minimizes the use of pesticides on the property. With all the plantings MNP staff and volunteers plant throughout the property, the plants help filter any sort of pesticide runoff that would end up in the waterways. Broad applications of herbicides are rarely used, unless warranted against noxious weeds.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
The MNP staff holds a variety of licenses for pesticide management. They also attend annual continuing education programs (webinars, conferences, etc).

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.

Through Operation Pollination, informational brochures and signs have content on how the public can help pollinators in their yards. One informational piece says to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.



Mequon Nature Preserve staff

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [JN Native Guide .pdf](#)