

Bee City USA - Newport News

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 City has a number of habitat creations around the various city properties and including our parks. We have the largest land mass area park(s) along the east coast. Our Green Foundation, which several board members are also Bee City Affiliate members as well have been engaging in projects non-stop. The largest is over the past year has been the Sarfan Food Forest (pic included below), an approximately 6 acres food forest in a fragile neighborhood in the City of Newport News. Some might even say that the Food Forest is at very heart of a food desert community. The Green Foundation and the City of Newport News received a \$100,000 grant this past year and with that and other grant funding have engaged in removing non native weedy vegetation and have cleared the way for native species to flourish as well and plantings of fruit bearing trees and plants. From the pics you will see portable water containers owned by the Green Foundation to insure consistent moisture throughout dry spells. Last year's \$100,000 private cash grant is just one of several to include grants from State and federal sources and private donations. The Green Foundation has dozens of "green properties" throughout the City. Sarfan Food Forest is now a pollinator friendly site and has been featured on local media for their efforts. There's a pic below where bird pollinators are now enjoying the site and happen to stop by for a photo bomb. :)

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

15

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

50

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

5

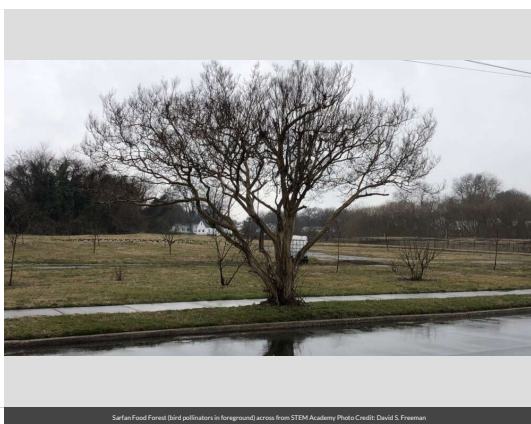
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

27878400

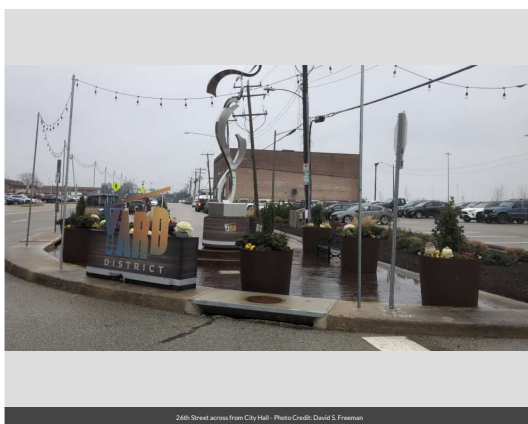
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden

- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- 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
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other



Safin Food Forest (bird pollinators in foreground) across from STEM Academy Photo Credit: David S. Freeman



26th Street across from City Hall - Photo Credit: David S. Freeman



Chatham Trail Green Foundation, a large pollinator friendly habitat Photo Credit: David S. Freeman

Education & Outreach

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

There have been so many to list and keep track of. Late 2022 we kicked off our main community celebration at Chatham Trail Park that was attended by about 150 people at least, and televised and is also listed on our government access channel and Youtube. Attendees came from within the City of Newport News and from around the region to celebrate. Our local and regional garden clubs have held countless meetings, projects and educational efforts over the past many

months. We have highlighted our Bee City USA efforts with our International Sister Cities visiting delegation from Ireland about 20 visiting dignitaries and their hosts. They couldn't get enough of our educational materials and local honey samples. They had an opportunity to view the wonderful pollinator friendly landscaping in and around City Hall Campus and along 26th Street. I'll try to include pictures below that showcase our wind art along with friendly pollinator habitats that blend in nicely with the hip trendy crowd of 26th Street directly across from City Hall.

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

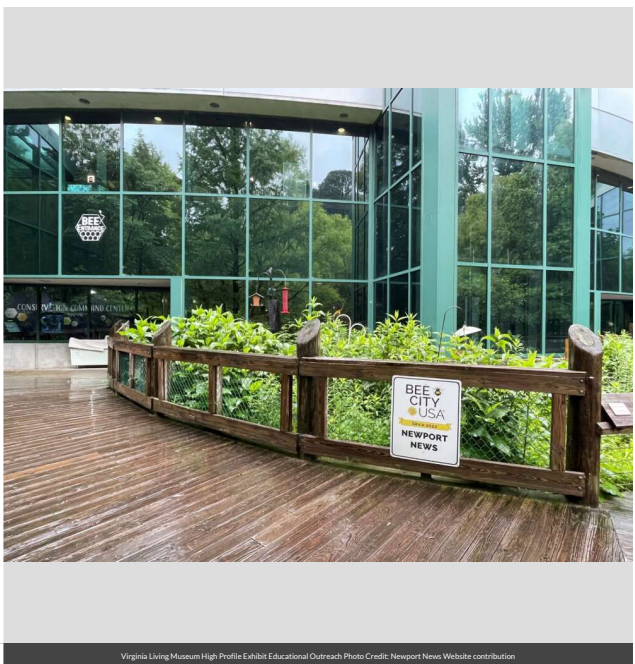
5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

200

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

3



Virginia Living Museum High Profile Exhibit Educational Outreach Photo Credit: Newport News Website contribution



Bee By Way Photo Credit: Newport News City Website contribution



Bee Learning Garden Photo Credit: Newport News City Website contribution



Policies & Practices

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

City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) LaToya N. White Vector Control Superintendent City of Newport News 511 Oyster Point Rd. WhiteLn1@nnva.gov

INTRODUCTION Common and landscape pests can pose a significant problem to people, property and the environment. Pesticides and herbicides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the Policy of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of common and landscape pests. Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, microorganisms) that can interfere with the day to-day operations of City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater and pose a health hazard to employees and citizens. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to the citizens, staff, property, and/or the environment. Pest management plans will be developed for the City of Newport News and will include pest management measures. The City of Newport News Virginia is located in the eastern portion of the Atlantic Coastal Plain and adjacent to the James and Warwick Rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, The features of this area contribute to the formation of considerable expanses of lowland fresh, brackish and salt marshes, which, in turn, provide extensive mosquito breeding habitat. This creates a situation where human and mosquito populations frequently interface. There are numerous species of mosquitoes within the corporate limits of Newport News that are known or suspected carriers of diseases that pose potential health risks to humans and domestic animals. West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are the main diseases that threaten the City of Newport News. The effects of weed infestations are widespread and affect many aspects of Stormwater's operation and citizens lives. The growth and spread of weeds can alter fire patterns and intensity, resulting in major ecosystem changes. Nitrogen-fixing plant species increase soil nitrogen levels to the point that other non-native plant species outcompete native species that have advanced in nutrient-poor soils. Weeds can affect soil erosion and aquatic habitat in nearby streams and ponds. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach that establishes a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks. The choice of using chemical pesticides will be based on a review of all other known options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or feasible. Cost or staffing consideration alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented, whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of VDACS to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action will be considered. When it is determined that a pesticide or herbicide must be used in order to meet the pest management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The IPM Coordinator, Administrator, and staff will be educated about the potential pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives. The IPM Coordinator will maintain records of pesticide and herbicide use and will notify the

public of upcoming pesticide treatments. Pesticide purchase will be limited to the amount authorized for use in one year. Pesticide will be stored and disposed in accordance with the label directions and state regulations. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate secure site not accessible to the public or unauthorized personnel. Pesticide applicators will be educated and trained in the principles and practices of integrated pest management and use of pesticides. They will follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators will be certified and comply with the VDACS policy. City of Newport News has adopted this Integrated Pest Management Plan for the right-of-way, easements and grounds City of Newport News manages and/or have permission to access property. The plan outlines procedures to be followed to protect the health and safety of employees, citizens and wildlife from pest and pesticide hazards. The plan is designed to voluntarily comply with policies and regulations promulgated by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for easements and wildlife areas. Objectives of this IPM plan include: • Elimination of significant threats caused by pests to the health and safety of employees and the public. • Prevention of loss or damage to structures or property by pests. • Protection of environmental quality inside and outside buildings. This IPM plan will be stored in the office of the IPM Coordinator. IPM COORDINATOR The Vector Control Superintendent or designee shall be City of Newport News IPM Coordinator and be responsible to implement the IPM plan and to coordinate pest management-related communications between City of Newport News, its citizens, service providers, staff and public. The Vector Control Superintendent shall designate an employee at each City of Newport News-managed facility to serve as the IPM Site Coordinator for the site. IPM COMMITTEE City of Newport News will maintain an IPM or other safety-related committee with responsibility for annual review of the IPM program and for assisting the IPM Coordinator in resolving pest-related issues. The committee will address IPM issues as needed and at least annually. Minutes will be taken of committee meetings and kept on file by the IPM Coordinator. Membership will include the IPM Coordinator and IPM Site Coordinators, and may also include community members, health advocates, patients and representatives from the Maryland IPM program. POSTING AND NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS The IPM Coordinator shall be responsible to annually notify employees and citizens of the procedures for requesting notification of planned and emergency applications of pesticides in right-of-way, easements, and other maintained property. When pesticide applications are scheduled in City of Newport News-managed buildings or on grounds, City of Newport News Service Providers and staff shall provide notification in accordance with law, including: 1. Posting a pest control information sign with the date, time and location of the application and the product applied in an appropriate area and including contact information for additional details. 2. Providing this information to all individuals employees and citizens. 3. Providing this information to all of the public who have requested notification of individual applications of pesticides. Where pests pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of citizens or employees, City of Newport News may authorize an emergency pesticide application and shall notify by telephone or social media any citizens who has requested such notification. Disinfectants, anti-microbials and self-contained or gel-type pesticide baits applied in inaccessible areas are exempt from posting, notification and the 7-hour reentry requirement. RECORD KEEPING & PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION City of Newport News will maintain records of all Service Provider visits and pest control treatments for at least four (4) years. Information regarding pest management activities will be made available to the public at the City of Newport News Vector Control superintendent office. Requests to be notified of pesticide applications may also be made to this office. All citizens will be informed of their option to receive

notification of all pesticide applications at enrollment and once annually. TRAINING All City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater's vector control staff will be provided with training on City of Newport News IPM policy at hire and during annual update training. Training will include the rationale for the IPM policy and program and specific elements including use of the pest-sighting log and prohibition on pesticide applications by non-certified individuals. Additionally, designated staff including the IPM Coordinator, IPM Site Coordinators and those who conduct regular inspections of City of Newport News facilities will receive advanced training on identifying pest infestations and pest-conducive conditions. This training will improve the ability of City of Newport News staff to oversee Service Providers and City of Newport News staff compliance with City of Newport News IPM policy and plan. GENERAL IPM STRATEGIES Pest management strategies may include education, exclusion, sanitation, maintenance, biological and mechanical controls, and pre-approved, site-appropriate pesticides. An Integrated Pest Management decision at City of Newport News consist of the following steps: 1. Identify pest species. 2. Estimate pest populations and compare to established action thresholds. 3. Select the appropriate management tactics based on current on-site information. 4. Assess effectiveness of pest management. 5. Keep appropriate records. Decisions concerning whether or not pesticides should be applied in a given situation will be based on a review of all available options. Efforts will be made to avoid the use of pesticides by adequate pest proofing of facilities, good sanitation practices, selection of pest-resistant plant materials, and appropriate horticultural practices. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet pest management objectives, the least-hazardous material, adequate for the job, will be chosen. All pesticide storage, transportation, and application will be conducted in accordance with the requirement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, City of Newport News policies and procedures, and local ordinances. No person shall apply, store, or dispose of any pesticide on City of Newport News-managed property without an appropriate pesticide applicator license. All pesticide applicators will be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved for use by City of Newport News. All applicators must comply with the IPM policy and follow appropriate regulations and label precautions when using pesticides in or around City of Newport News facilities. Pest-specific strategies will be included in the IPM Program Specifications provided to each service provider. CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC WORKS STORMWATER SERVICE PROVIDER ROLES City of Newport News service providers including pest control and landscape maintenance will be guided by written and signed contracts including City of Newport News-developed IPM program specifications for structural pest control providers. Service providers will be directed to provide special attention to pest-vulnerable areas including roadside ditches, artificial containers, approximately 52 private and public fresh and brackish water lakes, and over 60 miles of major outfall drainage ditches. The City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater division has the primary responsibility to implementing vector control activities. The responsibility is executed through carefully and continuous coordination with The City of Newport News Health Department, Virginia Health Department and many other state, local, and institutions agencies. CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC WORKS STORMWATER STAFF ROLES City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater administration will provide support to assist the IPM Coordinator in maintaining an IPM program that relies on minimal pesticide use. Such support will include efforts to promptly address any structural, horticultural, or sanitation changes recommended by the coordinator to reduce or

prevent pest problems. Furthermore, City of Newport News Public Works Stormwater administration will assist the Coordinator in developing and delivering materials and programs for staff, citizens, and the public to educate them about the importance of good sanitation and pest control. The facility director is responsible for ensuring staff compliance with the IPM policy and plan, including the attached check list. PEST-SPECIFIC STRATEGIES The following strategies will be used for frequently encountered pests: 1. Mosquitoes a. Mosquitoes will be identified to species to aid in locating nesting sites, preferred food, habits and appropriate baits when necessary. b. Mosquito breeding habitats will be cleaned up with the tip and toss method, including the areas mosquitoes are traversing to eliminate any overwintering, which females search for a cozy place that's sheltered from the wind to overwinter. c. Maintenance will be informed and the opening providing entry for mosquitoes into artificial containers will be located and eliminated. d. The public and/or citizens will be informed of any action they need to take to prevent future problems, e.g., cleaning up any potential mosquito breeding habitats promptly or thoroughly, storing containers, repairing and etc. e. If the above steps fail to correct the problem, individuals will inform the IPM Coordinator and discuss additional steps, such as more extensive repairs, changes in properly sealing artificial containers, changes in exterior landscaping to remove mosquito habitats, or selection of least-toxic pesticide baits or gels, preferably in manufactured tamper-resistant bait stations placed in areas inaccessible to children or other occupants.

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

Please see the above lengthy narrative on IPM

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

David S. Freeman spoke this past year to the local Rotary Club and made a presentation to the membership. David passed out educational materials, to include swag bags, etc. The presentation concluded with a site visit to a bee hive located at the golf course. The course, while private is a bee friendly community golf course/habitat.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- 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.

Please see above, but also our Storm Water division communicates regularly with neighborhoods, civic organizations and the business community, particularly the bee harvesting communities in the region regarding their efforts and listens to their suggestions.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We are not perfect but we are really trying hard, very hard. Coming out of COVID we, like everyone else, are backed up on things but are trying to catch up. We will continue to plan and do a lot of great things for the environment that are friendly for our pollinators. Thank you!



Just one side of City Hall Complex City Maintain IPM standard Photo Credit: David S. Freeman

City of Newport News
Bee City Affiliate Officer Board



Dale Banning
Co Chair



Rebecca Fass
Co Chair



David S. Freeman
Acting Secretary &
Acting Assistant City Manager

Photo Credit: David S. Freeman

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.nnva.gov/>

Freemands@nnva.gov

<https://www.instagram.com/CityofNN>

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofNewportNews>

<https://twitter.com/CityofNN>