

Bee City USA - Norcross

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.

City Hall Pollinator Garden (BCC): Due to the severe frost, we had to replace much of the plants. On our planting Day, volunteers gained hands on experience and guidance planting an in ground garden. Plants included Coreopsis, Black Eyed Susans, Meadows Parsnip, Scarlet Beebalm, among others. **Pollinator Garden Workshop Demo Container Garden:** UGA Master Gardener, Jim Saleh, led our Container Gardening Workshop and shared with attendees best practices with container gardening with a powerpoint presentation as well as a hands on demonstration of potting each plant **Norcross Elementary School:** BCC Member, Jacquelyn Morgan, began a Sustainability team and continues gardening pollinator garden and has a tower garden for vegetables growing. **Summerour Middle School Meadow (Gardens 4 Growing Community):** BCC member and Gardens 4 Growing Community founder, Tixie Fowler, continues to maintain a native meadow at Summerour Middle School. **Sourwood Tree Planting (Norcross Tree Board & City Arborist):** At the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree planting, the City Arborist planted a Sourgum Tree. The tree sits at the same location at the Pollinator Garden and the tree choice was intentionally chosen with pollinators in mind being so close to the Pollinator Garden. **Arboretum Tree Plantings (Trees Atlanta):** In 2023, the Trees Atlanta planted several trees in Norcross' Pinnacle Park which will be the 1st in Gwinnett County. Tree plantings, included Asimina triloba, Sour gum, Cherokee Plum, Sweetbay Magnolia, among others.

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

8

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

20

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

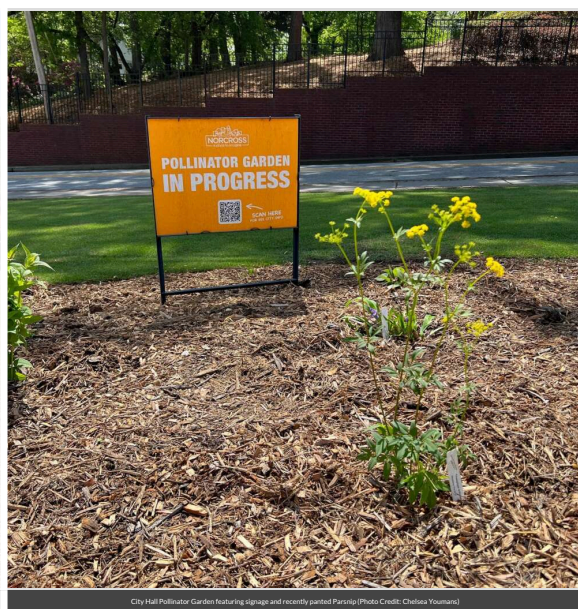
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

2828

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



Education & Outreach

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

In 2023, the City of Norcross supported and hosted a variety of pollinator conservation and education event in

partnership with City commissions, local schools, churches, and organizations, including our “Planting for Pollinators” Workshops which included a planting day at our City Hall Pollinator Garden as well as a Container Gardening Workshop. Additionally, Norcross’s Tree Preservation Board and City Arborist with inspiration from the Pollinator Garden planted a Sourwood Tree for the City’s annual Planting Tree Board’s Arbor Day. Our partners included: Bee City Committee (BCC) Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC), Norcross Community Market (NCM), Norcross Elementary School (NES), Discovery Garden Park Board (DGP), Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission (PG&T), Norcross Tree Preservation Board, the Gwinnett County school Board, Norcross Elementary school Garden Group, Victory World Church Gardening Group, Norcross Elementary Garden Club, UGA Extension, Norcross Community Market (NCM)/ Farm Fresh Days, and community volunteers. Below is a list of special, annual, and ongoing events facilitated by the City and community partners in 2023. Farm Fresh Days / Norcross Market – Story Time Gwinnett Public Library Norcross Story Time Pollinator Workshop #1 Pollinator Workshop #2 Pollinator Workshop #3 Enchanted Forest Norcross Elementary School Garden Clean Up Day Arbor Day (in Partnership with the Norcross Tree Preservation board)

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

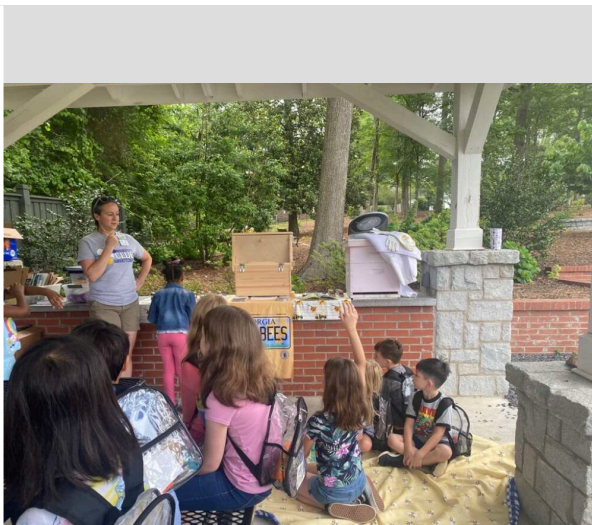
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How many people attended those events (in total)?

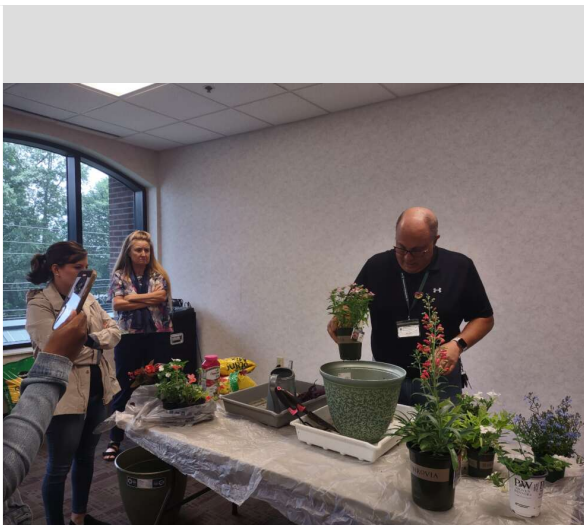
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How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

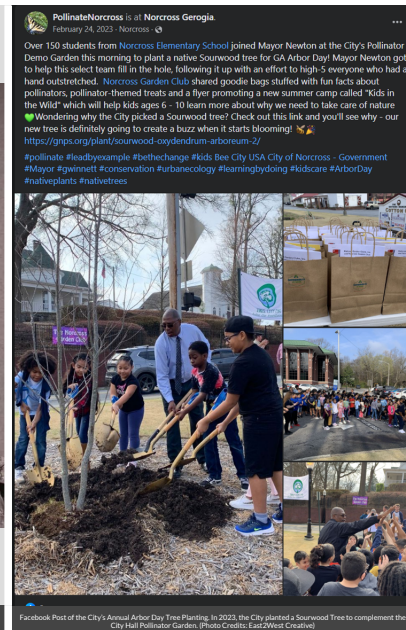
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Bee Keeper, Olivia Menard (from bees), speak to Kids in the Wild Campers on the importance of bees. (Photo Credit: Julia Killings)



UGA Master Gardener, Jim Saleh, leads live demo at City of Norcross' Workshop on Container Gardening. (Photo Credit: Jacquelyn Morgan)



Facebook Post of the City's Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting. In 2023, the City planted a Sourwood Tree to complement the City Hall Pollinator Garden. (Photo Credits: EastWest Creative)



Policies & Practices

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

The City in Norcross continues to abide by the Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM) to "maintain healthy attractive plants, maximize resistance to pests, and out-compete weeds." The City achieves this goal through monitoring of landscape areas to identify problematic plants, or plants susceptible to disease, and pests before they become a larger, more challenging issue. The Bee City Committee and staff liaison continue to research and learn more about sustainable landscaping practices as well as intentionally communicate and collaborate with staff members such as City's Arborist and the City's Landscape Beautification Manager to stay up to date on the IPM programs and ensure the policy adopted by the City of Norcross meets the standard held by Bee City USA. Additionally, three of the BCC members are Master Gardeners who maintain their certification through continuing education and volunteer efforts.

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

The City's Integrated Pest Management is the primary guide used to ensure that all pest and weed control methods utilized in City landscaping "have minimal negative affects on all but the pest and that protect air and water quality." The City incorporates these values and guidelines and into other City policies regarding new development and redevelopment projects. For example, the City offers a 25% building density bonus for developments which include native plantings, rain gardens, bio-swales, and other sustainable design elements and green building materials. Additionally, the City's official Architectural and Site Design promote native plantings for development projects.

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

No.

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)
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- 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>)

- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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.

The BCC facilitates community conversation about pollinator friendly pest management including reducing the use of pesticides in residential and business areas, on social media, through public signage, handouts and workshops. Additionally, the BCC provides educational pamphlets and coloring sheets at community events, including the Norcross Community Market (Farm Fresh Days) and Pollinator Workshops. The BCC maintains an active voice on social media through it's Pollinate Norcross Facebook page and the city's weekly Sustainability tips. Posts include informational blurbs, resources, and promotion of pollinator related events.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

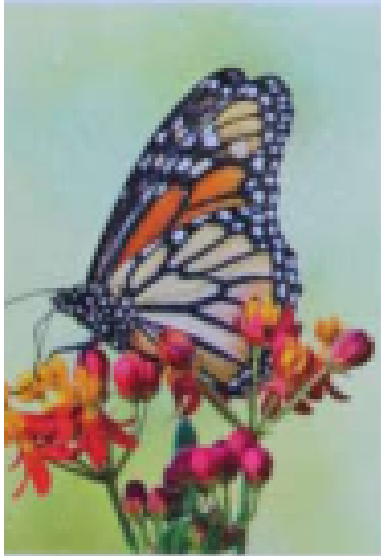
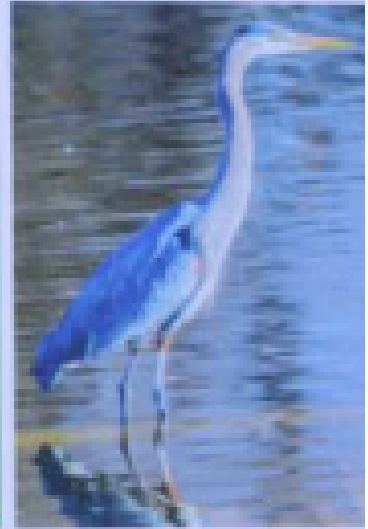
Partnerships, Communication and Collaboration is vital. Especially, collaborations with local schools is key to expanding our reach.

Growing, Not Mowing

Creciendo, No Cortando

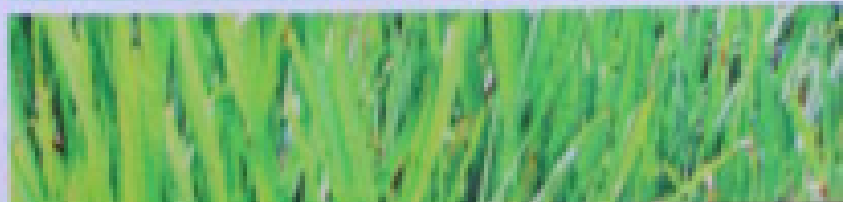
Wetlands

- Provide food, shelter and water for birds, animals and insects
- Promote native plants
- Reduce flooding, remove pollutants and improve air quality



Humedales

- Proporcionar comida, refugio y agua a aves, animales e insectos
- Promover plantas nativas
- Reducir inundaciones, eliminar contaminantes y mejorar la calidad del aire



Multilingual signage at Pinnacle Park describing sustainable landscape practices that support pollinators.



Group Photo of Bee City Committee and Volunteers at City of Norcross Planting Day (Photo Credit: Chelsea Youmans)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [EXCERPTED FROM NORCROSS MTCE SPEC.pdf](#)

<https://www.norcrossga.net/DocumentCenter/View/4507/EXCERPTED-FROM-NORCROSS-MTCE-SPEC>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

<https://www.norcrossga.net/2005/10418/Pollinators-Bee-City-USA>
sustainable@norcrossga.net

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

