

# Bee City USA - Pine Lake

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.*

• Monarch Way Station • McAlistaire Meadow • A ¼ mile public path between Pine Lake and Snapfinger Creek presenting a variety of native plants that attract pollinators including Partridge Pea, Jewelweed Sweet Autumn Clematis and Ironweed. • A small public Milkweed Nursery is located next to the entrance to Pine Lake's Eastern Wetlands includes Asclepias Tuberosa, Native Coneflowers, and Asters which are surrounded by a windbreak. • A quarter-acre Medicine and Herb Garden was established in 2022. It's centrally located in a public area next to our city's lake. Local volunteers are responsible for its maintenance. • Volunteers removed non-native invasives from Western Wetlands on multiple dates.

*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?*

70

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

2

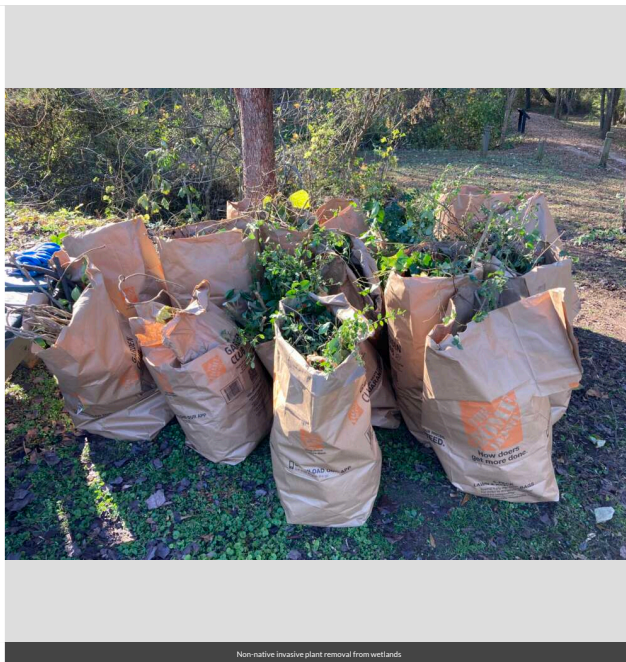
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

40000

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



## Education & Outreach

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

• The Pine Lake Stewards of Environmental Education and Design (SEED) and the Pine Lake’s Municipal Arts Panel held our annual Pollination Celebration festival on Sunday, April 23rd. Vendors, musicians, and environmental outreach organizations had the opportunity to enrich public knowledge about the importance of pollinators. • On August 23rd SEED held a Pollinator Census Event at the city’s clubhouse where we helped residents to complete a count in their own backyard or at various points throughout the city. In addition to instructing residents how to participate in the annual Great Southeastern Pollinator Census removal from a variety of demonstrations, exhibits, and literature educated community members on types of pollinators, beekeeping, native plant sources, and pollinator habitats. The Xerces Society hosted an information booth. A member of the Atlanta Beekeepers Association brought various honeys for tasting and a glass-encased beehive which allowed participants to learn about how hives work, Native hibiscus plants were given to visitors with instructions for how to add them to gardens. Local musicians performed pollinator-themed music. There were even bee-shaped cookies.

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

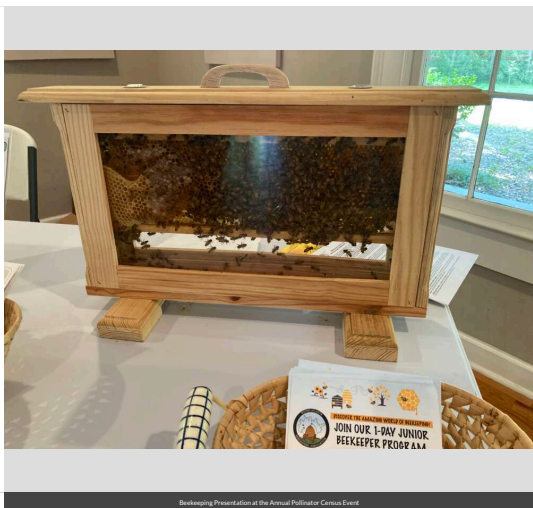
2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

120

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

1



Beekeeping Presentation at the Annual Pollinator Census Event



Poster art for Pine Lake's Annual Pollination Celebration



Concert at the Annual Pollinator Census Event



## Policies & Practices

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

Our city workers have avoided using pesticides in all public sites including the designated pollinator habitats. The plants selected for Pine Lake's designated pollinator habitats have not been treated with neonicotinoids. Signs that state the use of pesticides and herbicides are posted in Pine Lake's wetlands.

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

We continue to work with the city in attempting to put in place a formal IPM plan. Pine Lake has contracted with Ewe Can Do It Naturally, a local sheep farmer to have non-native invasive plants removed from two large public areas eliminating the need for herbicides. Measures for protecting and if needed, restoring existing native plants are being taken so pollinators will not be indirectly harmed.

*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.*

- 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)
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- 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.*

At Pine Lake's Annual Pollinator Census Event, we set up a demonstration of the mosquito bucket system, a bee-friendly, vegetable garden-friendly, and pet-friendly way to eliminate mosquitos, which uses B.t.i. (*Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis*), a naturally occurring bacterium found in soil that kills mosquito larvae.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

**no**



The City of Pine Lake prohibits the use of herbicides and pesticides in the public wetlands.



Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Native Plant List.docx](#)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [Recommended Native Plant Supplier List.docx](#)

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