

Bee City USA - Ridgewood

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.

As mentioned above, we were able to increase participation in our Project 1000 acres in 2023, which is the largest overall impact on habitat. To participate in Project 1000 acres, you have to agree to the majority of the following: #1. Commit Commit to personally maintaining a portion of your land in a sustainable manner. Enjoy one hour per week outside on your land. Learn more about your property by identifying plants. #2. Convert Convert a portion of your lawn for to a native plant garden. #3. Plant a Tree Plant a native northeast U.S. tree surrounded by native plants or leaf fall (not grass). #4. Remove Invasives Remove non-native, invasive plant(s) or shrub(s). #5. No Gas Mowing Eliminate gas-powered lawn maintenance equipment, and instead use electric or manual lawnmowers. #6. No Gas Blowing Eliminate gas-powered leaf blowers, and instead use electric leaf blowers or manually rake leaves. #7. Reduce Toxicity Eliminate toxic/harmful pesticides or herbicides by switching to eco-friendly or do-it-yourself pesticides and herbicides. #8. Fertilize Organic Eliminate the use of non-organic fertilizers, and instead use organic ones. #9. Compost Leaves Compost your leaves and use them for mulch. This eliminates non-northeast sourced, non-organic, or pesticide treated mulch. Otherwise, obtain locally sourced mulch. #10. Water Less. Align with Village water restrictions, including "smart controller" use for automatic sprinklers.

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

12

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

25

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

1

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

1500

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
- 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
- School garden

initiative, which further spread the word about the importance of pollinators. The No Mow May initiative led to many other discussions and events throughout the summer. Our town's Green Team sponsors, "Project 1000 acres" which is designed to get residents to agree to have their property be environmentally/pollinator friendly. The average property size in Ridgewood is under a ½ acre, and our goal is to cumulatively have 1000 acres of private property dedicated to natural practices. The publicity that No Mow May brought allowed us to sign up more people for our 1000 acres project. No Mow May also involved our high school, allowing for kids to participate and help spread the word to their parents/families. Last, our public Library and our town participated by also not mowing specific areas for the month of May. Overall it created a tremendous amount of PR for pollinators and their importance. Additionally, the educational value was off the charts, as discussions took place at multiple meetings and events throughout the year. It was a wonderful way to engage our whole town in the importance of pollinators.

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

8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1000

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

4



Three Ridgewood youngsters proudly supporting No Mow May. (photo by Frank Mortimer)



Ridgewood Library Photo by Village of Ridgewood



No Mow May Sign Photo by Frank Mortimer



Ridgewood Bee City USA from Green Ridgewood

Policies & Practices

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

Through No Mow May and Project 1000 acres, we had many discussions about reducing toxicity throughout our town. Thanks to the press we received, we were able to explain the issues. Last, info was available on our village website, which included links to journal articles and news stories.

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

Yes. Please see above.

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

Yes. Please see above.

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>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants 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.

YES! Green Ridgewood is continuing to use Project 1000 acres to get more residents aware of the dangers of pesticides. Also, there are several dedicated gardens in Ridgewood that are organic.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Community participation is key! Amazed at how many different types of people loved No Mow May!

PESTICIDES

DANGERS

Over exposure to pesticides can increase the risk of unwanted health effects in humans and can harm wildlife such as birds, fish, and non-targeted insects and plants. Another known consequence of pesticides is groundwater pollution.

NOTIFICATION

If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications near your residence, please see N.J.A.C 7:30-9:15 or scan the QR code and go to the bottom of page 116 for more information.

To contact the DEP directly call 1-877-WARNDEP



NATURAL ALTERNATIVES

Plants that naturally repel insects include citronella, lavender, thyme, marigolds, rosemary, basil, lemongrass, chrysanthemums, petunias, and mint.

Essential oils can be used with a carrier oil to dilute prior to having contact on skin. Essential oils that repel insects include peppermint, lavender, eucalyptus, and cinnamon.

Mosquitoes and flies have a hard time flying in wind. Consider using outdoor fans to naturally deter them.



members of Green Ridgewood from Green Ridgewood

[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)

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