

# Bee City USA - River Falls

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 committee did not host any as we are drafting one. There were some in the community. I don't have a list of details.**

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

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

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## Education & Outreach

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

**Educational Event at Earth Fest, the committee hosted it. The Event promoted conserving Bees with Native Pollinators, reducing pesticides, and building support towards a Toxic Free DeSanctis Park**

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

**1**

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

**2365**



Sean Down with community support. Credit: Sean Downing



Bee Enthusiast Credit: Sean Downing

## Policies & Practices

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

Development of a policy to reduce pesticides. Hand weeding around plants in certain areas. Reduces chemical use as needed as we were short staffed so in city parks in places it made it easier to pick and choose where we could reduce usage and plan for the future pollinator efforts.

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

Yes, we are crafting a resolution for a Toxic Free Park that will establish a baseline for best practices, and practical approach in land management for Parks that can also be used elsewhere to promote pollinators.

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

Committee Chair went to a couple classes at Arboretum of MN this last year as a representative of the committee at the Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center. Where ecological-based integrated Pest Management was discussed with Native planting for pollinators specifically for bees. Committee Chair also took a class on Bumblebees and identifying endangered ones such as the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee with an emphasis on what we can do to help them.

*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)
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds

*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, we are working towards a new approach to one of our parks DeSanctis Park to get a toxic free designation. Where reduced pesticides and conserving native plants for bees is the emphasis.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

There are different rolls on the committee to fill and only so many volunteers so having a vision that aligns with all of them and the different dynamic groups and having outreach that helps build our community plays a big part in moving forwards in building community support.



Bee City Committee Credit: Kathryn Paquet

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<http://www.rfcity.org>

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