

# Bee City USA - Round Rock

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.*

Our main pollinator habitat project was planting bulk pollinator flower seeds in four of our city owned/managed storm water detention ponds. These areas are about 2 acres in size total. Bee City Committee members organized the plantings but the actual work was done by the city parks department. One "experimental" detention pond bloomed in the Spring and was totally amazing – thus, we did plantings in three additional detention ponds this past Fall and are currently eagerly awaiting them to bloom this Spring. Our goal is to plant a additional 3-5 detention ponds every year with pollinator seed. We also contributed to, but did not organize, smaller "yard gardens" at a couple of schools and neighborhoods.

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

7

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

20

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

7

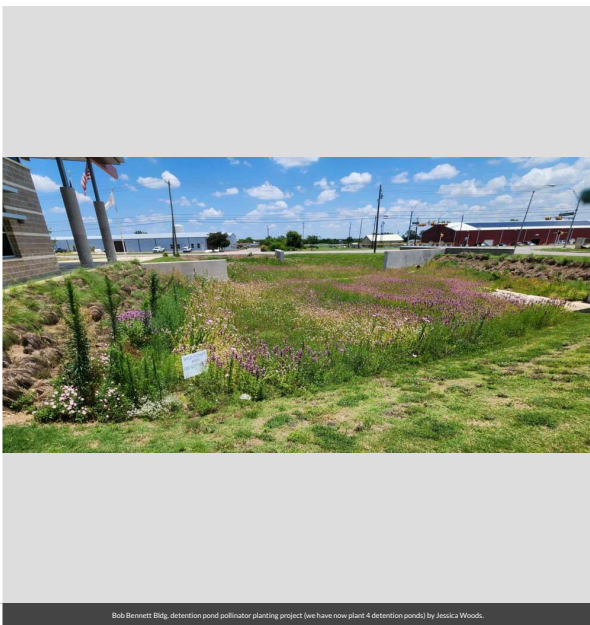
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

87120

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- 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



Bob Bennett Bldg. detention pond pollinator planting project (see how new plant & detention ponds) by Jessica Woods.



RRISD school pollinator garden by Kim Jones.



Forest Creek Neighborhood Garden by Laurie Hadley.

## Education & Outreach

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

The Round Rock Bee City committee members volunteered at informational tables at numerous city sponsored events. Our tables had a variety of free pollinator seed packet's, Bee City USA pamphlets, children's bee/pollinator activity sheets & markers, native plant guides, and honey recipe booklets. Examples of these events are – Library Earth Day, Neighborhood Conference, Health Fair, Library Children's Summer Reading Program Kick-off, BACA Center Garden Club, Rain Barrel Distribution Day, Safety Conference, Univer-City, and Round Rock Honey Bee Presentation. "Bee's" was also the theme/topic for our annual Chalk Walk Arts Event (entrants where encouraged to draw artwork with bees). We gave out free pollinator seed packets to the first 10,000 Chalk Walk attendees. In addition, we had baskets of free pollinator seed packets at numerous city buildings in the Spring & Fall for the public to take home. We also distributed pollinator seed packets to schools, non-profits, scout groups, and local bee/honey shops. In total, we distributed 23,000 free pollinator seed packets.

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

18

How many people attended those events (in total)?

3000

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

16





Several photos above show our street sign, so this photos shows our two table signs by Tara Ambrose.

## Policies & Practices

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

City staff always try's to use the least amount of pesticide necessary when it is needed. The detention ponds and greenbelt/park lands with pollinators/bluebonnets are left untouched in their "natural state".

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

Round Rock is a new member of this advocacy group – Bee City USA. Although our city water system is exceptionally rated, we are currently in the process of bringing even more "advanced" filters on-line at our water treatment plant (which discharges into Brushy Creek). Round Rock has also opted-out of Williamson County's mass spraying for mosquitos. Our public library has started a Seed Library which consists of many (but not 100%) pollinator flower, tree, and bush seeds.

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

So far, Round Rocks Bee City program has registered four Bee City committee members to attend classes to become a Certified Master Naturalist. IPM is a key component of this 3 month intensive program.

*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

*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.*

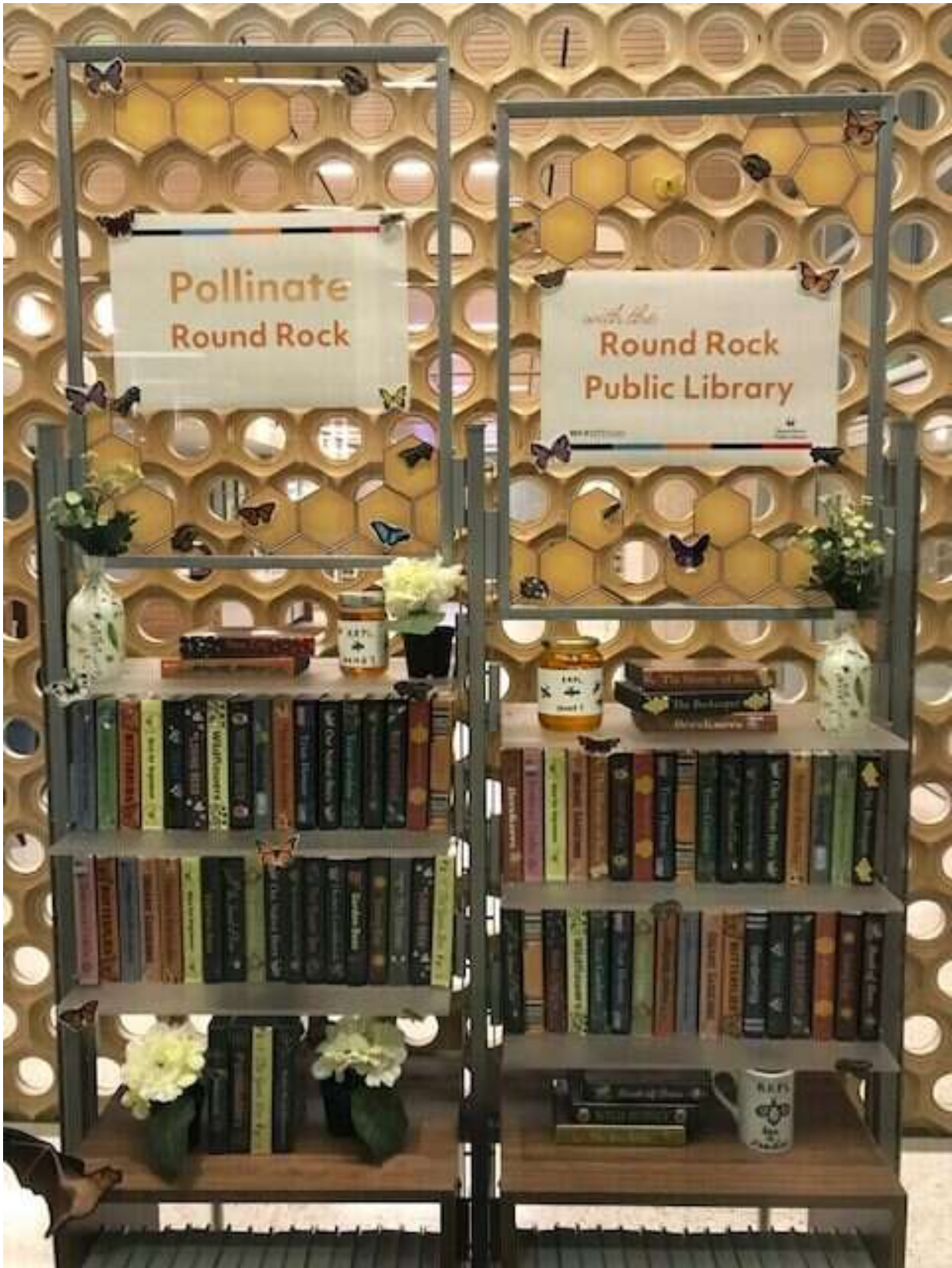
There are numerous groups, schools, and organizations in the greater Round Rock/Central Texas area advocating for bees, butterflies, reduced pesticides, and pollinator habitat protection.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Not everyone likes bee's, butterflies, pretty flowers, or the outdoors....and they have no interest in changing. period. There will always be haters and "negative nellies" in the world....sigh.



"All about Bees" Presentation by Round Rock Honey given to city field workers by Emily Morales.



This is a photo (that does not do the display justice) of our Library's Spring Pollinator display window by the main entrance by Andrea Warkentin.

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Planting.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant List & Texas Suppliers.pdf](#)

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