

Bee City USA - Virginia Beach

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.

Continued to enhance the Pollinator Garden at Redwing and hosted a Bee City event in June 2023. The Bee City Committee partnered with the Salem High School Senior Art students who created a mural reflecting pollinators and the plants that sustain them. This encourage the faculty to create a wildflower meadow on their campus that will be dedicated in 2024.

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

3

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

2

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

78000

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Creating Pollinator planters for May 31st event. (L-R) Bee City President Betty Ann DesRoches, VB liaison, Symsi Denson and City Horticulturist, Jenn Carroll



Bee Hotel created by local artist, installed at various VB locations, including Redwing Park Pollinator 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 VB Bee City Committee hosted a Bee City event on 6/24/23 in the Redwing Pollinator Garden. They partnered with Additionally they participated in over 13 public events and provided information and encouragement

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

13

How many people attended those events (in total)?

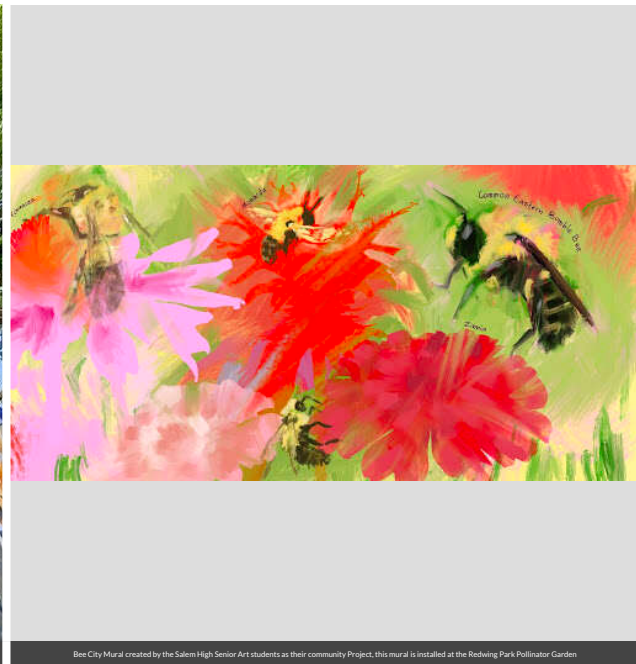
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Bee City Event June 2023 - Dedicating the Pollinator Mural in the Redwing Pollinator Garden



Official VB Bee City Mascot Ms. Rose Busetti, President of the VB Council of Garden Clubs



Bee City Mural created by the Salem High Senior Art students as their community Project, this mural is installed at the Redwing Park Pollinator Garden

Policies & Practices

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

The City of Virginia Beach does not utilize any spray insecticide and will only use soil injections for very targeted pests to decrease the opportunity of killing non pest pollinators. Additionally, fertilizers and pesticides for turf are prohibited with the exception of high school sports fields.

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

Not at this time but the Public Works Stormwater division and non profit groups are educating the public regarding the negative impacts of chemicals and other runoff into our waterways.

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

Yes through Virginia Department of Agriculture as well as the committee attending a variety of seminars and talks.

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)

- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- 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
- 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.

The Bee City Committee is doing outreach through their community groups and at events to encourage native plants and using less or no pesticides on residential property where incidentally the vast majority of pesticide use occurs.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Start small and build from accomplishments when the goal is to educate and engage the public about the importance of protecting and growing the native species pollinator population. Participating in all size events is important to get the word out and providing incentives to residents to less or NO pesticides is a positive way to impact change.



Horticulture team who hand weeds garden to adhere to our IPM policy in Pollinator Gardens.



VB Bee City Committee L to R- Jessica O'Connor, Kathy Edwards, Demaris Yearick, Kay Eckhardt, Betty Ann DesRoches, Barbie Sherrill

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [20210305 - IPM Plan - FINAL.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [VB 2021 Grow Native Trees For Bees.pdf](#)
<https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>

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