

Bee City USA - Winston-Salem

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 City of Winston-Salem sponsors the Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful Project (Keep America Beautiful Affiliate) annually through the Department of Sustainability. Each year the Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful projects sponsors several pollinator friendly events, including their annual Flower Bed Program. In 2023, Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful Flower Bed Program sponsored the planting of over 56 garden beds in public spaces across the City of Winston-Salem. This effort created over 23,000 sqft of habitat enhancement across the city. All flower beds incorporate many nectar providing plantings, including but not limited to, milkweed, bee balm, phlox, foxglove, liatris, goldenrod, coneflower, stokes aster, cardinal flower, eastern blue star, and blunt mountain mint. This effort is supported by the Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful Project and Board, as well as by the Community Sustainability Program Committee.

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

198

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

1100

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

97

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

3890540

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

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



1 Pollinator Bed at Washington Park • volunteer banana tree - PC Moriah Gendy A few of the Volunteers at Tanners Run Creek Clean Up, an invasive species removal project, during Forsyth Creek Week. PC Old Salem Horticulture Program.

Education & Outreach

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

- During Forsyth Creek in 2023, Bee City USA Liaison Moriah Gendy, hosted 2 educational outreach events on behalf of Bee City USA project. The events include a native plant talk “Why Native Plant Choices Matter” at the Reynolda Manor Library in partnership with the Cooperative Extension; & Tanners Run Creek Clean up in partnership with Old Salem Horticulture. Between these two events, Moriah engaged about 75 residents in Winston-Salem to get involved in pollinator related activities. During the “Why Native Plants Matter” all participants were invited to build their own DIY Native Bee Hotel to take home and support over wintering insects. Even more, during Tanners Run Creek Clean up, volunteers removed 3 pickup truck loads – approximately 600 lbs. of invasive vegetation from along the beds of the historic creek running through downtown Winston-Salem.

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

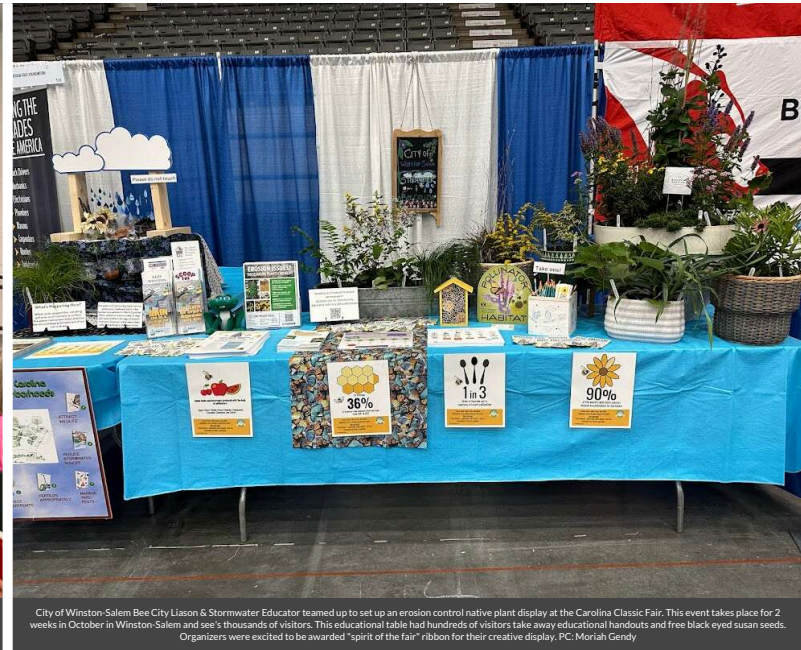
8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

4673

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

3





See our Pollinator Signage pictured during the off season as well. PC: Shaleen Miller

Policies & Practices

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

– In 2023, the City of Winston-Salem Sustainability Department initiated planning for reducing pesticide use. The Sustainability Department engaged the City of Winston-Salem Vegetation Management staff in a discussion about feasible steps in reducing herbicide/ pesticide in routine land management. After discussions around feasibility, scale of project, cost of project, and other considerations; the Departments of Sustainability and Vegetation Management agreed to pursue the purchase of an industrial weed steamer. Sustainability agreed to pursue the budget request for FY24-25 and are awaiting feedback at this time from City Budgeting. If this budget request is successful, Vegetation Management estimates that they can reduce the amount of herbicide used in city wide land management by 1/5 – nearly 300 gallons of round up and 75 gallons of additional herbicide/ pesticide annually. If successful, there have been discussions to pursue budget allocations to pursue additional steamers as well.

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

– Yes. The City of Winston-Salem in 2023 began planning to develop a meadowing program to transition under-utilized city owned spaces (parks, roadsides, vacant lots, etc..) away from conventional landscaping management to more sustainable meadows. Sustainability staff began discussions with Parks & Rec, Stormwater, & Vegetation Management planning efforts to develop a meadowing program. This effort will effectively take spaces that the city has historically fertilized with synthetic fertilizers, sprayed with conventional round up, and routinely mowed – and transition those spaces to meadows that contain native plantings. This will reduce the need to mow to once a year and will effectively stop the use of synthetic chemicals in these spaces. This initiative will promote native ecological habitats, protect pollinators, people, and our local waterways from harmful pesticide exposure. Plans are underway to start meadowing efforts in 2024/2025. Additionally, in 2023, City of Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation Department successfully partnered with Forsyth Audubon Society to develop a conservation easement at Long Creek Park – a 164 Acre Park in Winston-Salem. The conservation easement is approximately 75 Acres and runs along the edge of Long Creek. By establishing this conservation easement and allowing this space to meadow in the coming years, the City has initiated a substantial effort to protect the Long Creek waterway from erosion and stormwater run off. Long Creek Park was purchased by the City of Winston-Salem in late 2022 and was previously managed as a private golf course. Transitioning this property to a conservation easement will offer greater protections to the local water way in the future.

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

– No, not in 2023.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- 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>)
- 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.

– Yes. In 2023, planning efforts began in line with the Bee City USA project to support an overhaul of the Natural

Landscaping Ordinance Requirements for residents of Winston-Salem. The Sustainability Department began to convene relevant stakeholders (City Council members, Vegetation Management, Code Enforcement, & Neighborhood Services, Cooperative Extension) to discuss broadening the allowances for residents to maintain natural landscapes. Following discussions with stakeholder groups, the Sustainability Department drafted ordinance update language in 2023 and worked with City of Winston-Salem Managers and Attorneys to review expectations around updating the ordinance in 2024. In February 2024, Sustainability presented the ordinance update at the General Government Committee which passed unanimously. Sustainability will be presenting the ordinance update at the March City Council Meeting, which if it passes will allow the ordinance to go into effect. If passed, this ordinance will greatly expand the rights of residents to plant their yards with natural landscapes rather than turf grass. This will promote protections for pollinators, as native yards are proven to reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, reduce the amount of water used in lawn care, and provide pollinator friendly habitats across the city.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

- You must meet people where they are at to bring them along. It is not feasible for the Bee City USA Project/ Sustainability Department to do this work independently. Rather, partnership and fostering trust and collaboration has been the most productive tool in developing our project. Its incremental and takes time to transition practices, but by taking this time, our efforts will be more sustainable long term.

The screenshot shows the City of Winston-Salem website's navigation menu with the following items: Firemen's Relief Fund / Board of Trustees, Historic Resources Commission (Forsyth County), Housing Authority, Human Relations Commission, Loan Committee, Local Governance Study Commission, M/WBE Citizen Advisory Committee, Medical Review Board, Piedmont Triad Airport Authority, Planning Board (City-County), Police Officers' Retirement Commission, Public Art Commission (City-County), and Public Assembly Facilities. The main content area displays the 'Community Sustainability Program Committee' page, which includes the following information:

Chief Staff Person
 Dr. Shaleen Miller
 Sustainability Program Director
 Phone: 336-397-7929

Current Membership

NAME	RACE & GENDER	TERM	EXPIRATION
Jean Alsup	White Female	1	May 2025
Christy Robinson	White Female	2	May 2025
Mason Stevens	White Male	1	May 2025
Vacant			
Vacant			
Leah Lavin	White Female	1	May 2024
Bodiford Stackhouse	Black Male	1	May 2024
Vacant			
Keyra Williams	Black Female	2	May 2024
Jordan Brewster	White Female	2	May 2025
Zebulon Carter Berry (White Male	1	May 2024

Purpose / Function
 The purpose of the Community Sustainability Program Committee is to review the City's Local Action Plan and provide periodic reports, recommendations, and act as an advisory body to City Council with regard to greenhouse gas emissions and related sustainability issues.

City of Winston-Salem Community Sustainability Program Committee

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Suggested Native Plant List Oct 1 2019.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Bee City General Information 2021.pdf](#)

<https://www.cityofws.org/921/Bee-City-USA>

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