

# Bee City USA - City of Ypsilanti

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.*

Leadership of the Freighthouse rain garden was passed to a new volunteer and retired City employee, also a Master Gardener, Master Rain Gardener, and Master Composter. This volunteer has brought new energy- and invasives removal- to the garden.

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

1

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

50

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

1

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

1000

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

- Rain garden/bioswale

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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.*

The Fourth Biannual Earth Day festival was an open house tabling event that connected nonprofit and community resources with members of the public. Vegan and vegetarian food vendors were brought in to promote and sample plant-based cuisine; hands-on activities to educate children were provided; and some vendors gave away seedlings such as wild strawberry. Residents could also sign up to receive a free tree seedling (black cherry or spruce) as a dual

Arbor Day/Earth Day promotion. This event was organized and hosted by the Sustainability Commission, which formally took the mantle of Bee City Committee in 2022. The Festival of the Pollinator was the second year by its name, formerly Festival of the Honeybee. This event capitalizes on the First Fridays coordinated sale/arts event in Ypsilanti's historic commercial districts. Participating businesses and events showcase pollinator-themed products or artwork. This event is organized by a local nonprofit.

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

2

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

1000

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

2

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## Policies & Practices

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

Herbicide use was strictly limited to invasives control and poison ivy control (when the poison ivy intruded into regularly occupied spaces). Other pesticides were only applied indoors to control normal "household" pests such as mice and ants and were applied by a registered commercial applicator.

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

In 2023, the City suspended enforcement of its weed height ordinance in May to celebrate "No (or Low) Mow May."

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

The City participates in the Middle Huron Partnership, which helps to provide education to residents and businesses regarding stormwater/surface water quality. This year, for the first time, the City directly mailed the Huron River Watershed's wall calendar with water quality tips to all residents of one- and two-family homes in the City. This calendar also includes information that encourages people to use native plants in landscaping and minimize pesticide and fertilizer use.

*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)

- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- 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.*

**We are unaware of any current efforts specifically to reduce pesticide use; residents are regularly encouraged to use leaves for mulching/weed control in the fall.**

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

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