

# Bee City USA - Westover

## 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.*

March 2023 Annual Pollinator Triangle Upkeep, volunteers, the Monongalia County Beekeepers Association, and members of the Pollinator Committee planted more pollinator friendly plants and preformed upkeep on the habitat in Westover at the Triangle. Our Bee City USA sign and a sign for the Monongalia County Beekeepers was placed on 3/26/23. May 11, 2023 Members of the Pollinator Committee, volunteers, and Realtors from Keller Williams Reality Advantage planted pollinator friendly plants in a flowerbed in Westover City Park for Keller Williams annual Red Day. This is a day every May we give back to our communities by doing community service. May 13, 2023 The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association and members of the Pollinator Committee participated in Scotts Run Spring Planting Festival. We provided educational materials and an observation hive for attendees to learn about the importance of honeybees. July 2023 Westover City Council approved use of land in Westover City Park for a community gardening space by West Virginia Garden Collaborative.

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

2

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

50

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

2

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

250

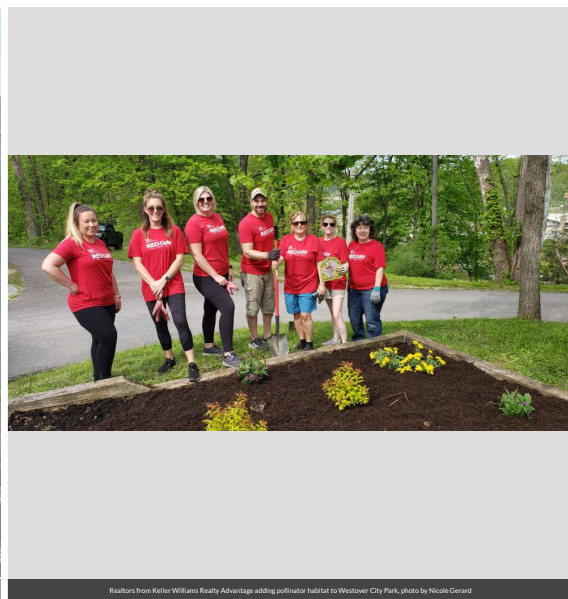
*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



Monongalia County Beekeepers Association sign at The Triangle pollinator habitat in Westover, photo taken by Shawna Cross



Realtors from Keller Williams Realty Advantage adding pollinator habitat to Westover City Park, photo by Nicole Gerard

## Education & Outreach

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

**2023 Bee City USA Activities January 2023** I was interviewed by WDTV about Westover, WV's new Bee City USA affiliation. <https://www.wdtv.com/video/2022/12/20/westover-gets-special-bee-city-usa-designation/> **March 2023 Annual Pollinator Triangle Upkeep**, volunteers, the Monongalia County Beekeepers Association, and members of the Pollinator Committee planted more pollinator friendly plants and performed upkeep on the habitat in Westover at the Triangle. Our Bee City USA sign and a sign for the Monongalia County Beekeepers was placed on 3/26/23. **May 11, 2023** Members of the Pollinator Committee, volunteers, and Realtors from Keller Williams Realty Advantage planted pollinator friendly plants in a flowerbed in Westover City Park for Keller Williams annual Red Day. This is a day every May we give back to our communities by doing community service.

<https://morgantownmag.com/welcome-to-bee-city/> **May 13, 2023** The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association and members of the Pollinator Committee participated in Scotts Run Spring Planting Festival. We provided educational materials and an observation hive for attendees to learn about the importance of honeybees. **July 2023** Westover City Council approved use of land in Westover City Park for a community gardening space by West Virginia Garden

Collaborative. July & August 2023 The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association worked with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and Visit Mountaineer Country to put together the West Virginia Honey Trail. This is a great resource for anyone looking for local honey products and businesses that sell or use local honey. The City of Westover is on this list as a Bee City USA affiliate.

<https://www.visitmountaineercountry.com/west-virginia-honey-trail/>. August 4, 2023 The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association and members of the Pollinator Committee hosted a Honey Harvest at the Monongalia County Fair. This was interactive and gave participants the opportunity to learn to harvest honey from the frame. December 18, 2023 I recorded a pod cast in August with Jim Hunt of Amazing Cities called Putting the B in Bee City. We talked about the importance of honeybees and what cities could do to help.

<https://www.amazingcities.org/podcast-1/episode/235f0051/putting-the-b-in-bee-city-with-shawna-cross>

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)?

300

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

1



Charlie from the Monongalia County Beekeepers with his observation hive at The Spring Planting Festival, photo by Shawna Cross

The importance of Honeybees, graphic by Amazing Cities with Jim Hunt

**WEST VIRGINIA HONEY TRAIL**  
**VISIT MOUNTAINEER COUNTRY.COM**

The Monongalia County Beekeepers Association, in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and [visitmountaineercountry.com](http://visitmountaineercountry.com), invite you to join us in establishing a remarkable initiative called the "Honey Trail."

Our goal- to create a comprehensive trail of businesses that actively promote the use of local honey or support pollinators.

By becoming part of the Honey Trail, you can showcase your commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and the preservation of our precious pollinators. This unique platform will connect consumers with your business, allowing them to make informed choices and support local enterprises.

Join us on this journey towards a thriving ecosystem and a healthier, more vibrant community. Together, we can make a significant impact and create a buzz of positive change!

**Requirements:**

- Must be a business/organization within the state of West Virginia
- Must Sell/Promote Pollinators, products from the hive, or something related

**Sign up Below!**

**Questions?**

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 Westover Bee City USA Pollinator Committee Chair  
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Information about the WV Honey Trail, flyer made by Mike Lamp



Bee City USA sign in Westover, WV at The Triangle, proof by Morgantown Blueprint

## Policies & Practices

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

**The Pollinator Committee has been working with the WV Garden Collaborative to educate on better pest management without chemicals.**

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

**Nothing new.**

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

**Yes with the WV Garden Collaborative and the Monongalia County Beekeepers Association.**

*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)**
- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**
- **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 Pollinator Committee has been working with the WV Garden Collaborative to educate on better pest management without chemicals.**



Planting pollinator habitat without use of chemicals, photo taken by Shawna Cross



Volunteers and members of the Pollinator Committee, photo taken by Brian Cross

Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

<https://www.epa.gov/ipm/introduction-integrated-pest-management>

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

<https://wvdr.gov/native-plants-sources/>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://wvdr.gov/native-plants-sources/>

[https://www.westoverww.org/  
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/966224883520647/about>