

Bee City USA - Warner Robins

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.

Over 500lbs of pollinator wildflower seeds were sowed into 11 acres of medians to create wildflower habitats along Russell Parkway. Pollinator plants such as milkweed, joe pye weed, and bee balm were also added to beautification sites throughout the city. These events were community plantings hosted by our bee city committee.

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

34

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

35

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

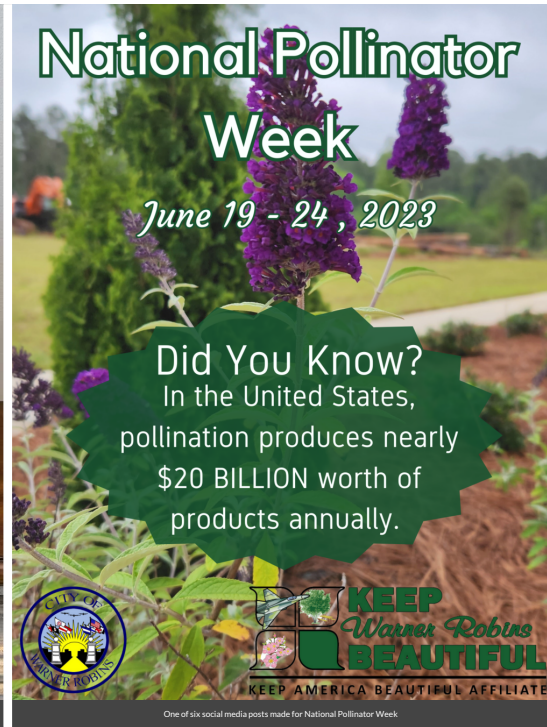
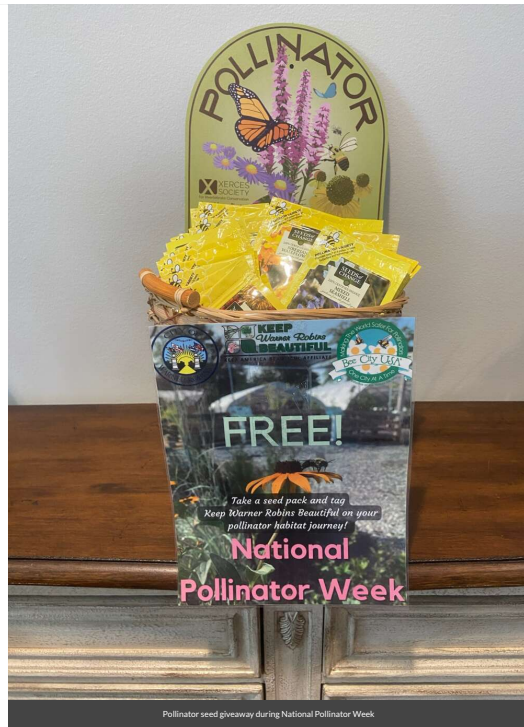
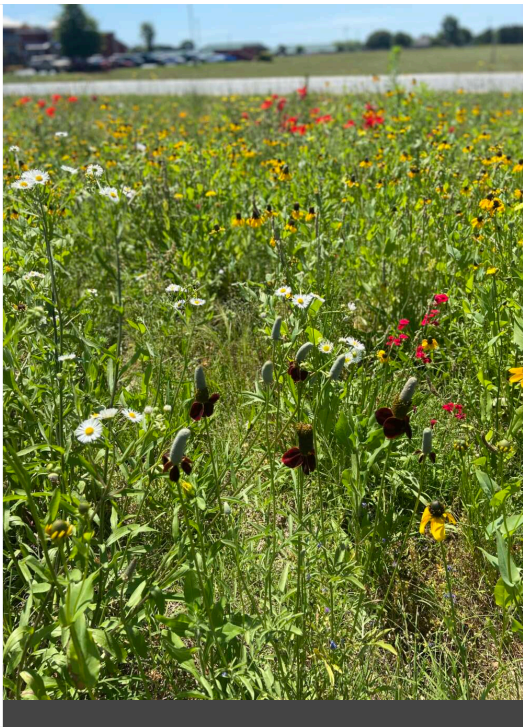
4

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

566280

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)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School 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, 11 acres of pollinator friendly wildflower habitat were established in the medians of Russell Parkway. Additional pollinator plantings took place across 23 beautification sites throughout the city. Keep Warner Robins Beautiful's Native Plant Education Center began growing several varieties of milkweed and other pollinators to plant throughout the city and sell to residents in order to offer neonicotinoids free native pollinators to residents of Warner Robins.

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

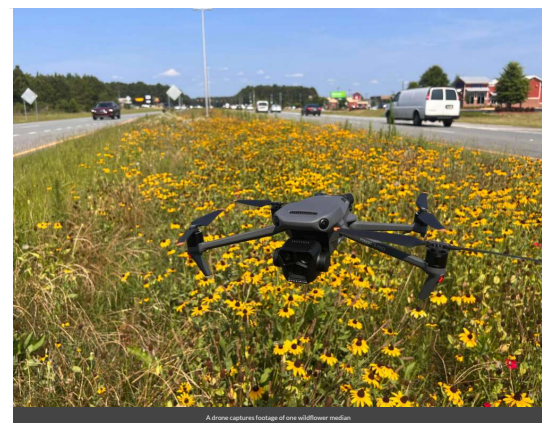
5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

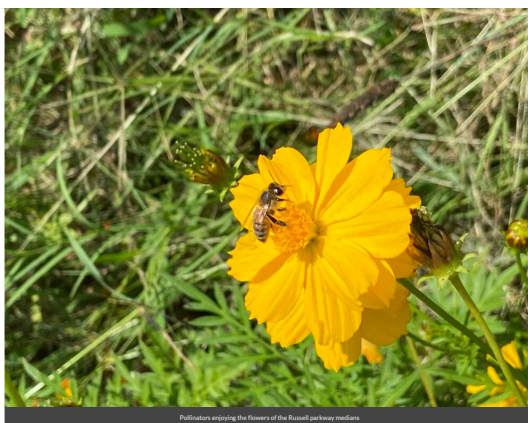
875

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

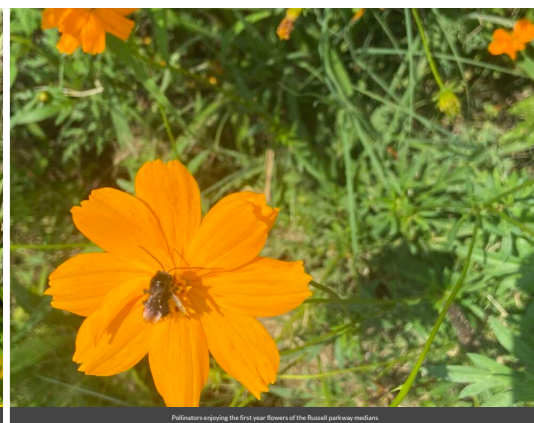
6



A drone captures footage of one wildflower median.



Pollinators enjoying the flowers of the Russell parkway median.



Pollinators enjoying the first year flowers of the Russell parkway median.

Policies & Practices

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

Selecting Pollinator-Safe Pesticides: Organic or natural pesticides, like neem oil or insecticidal soaps have replaced Systemic insecticides at all KWRB beautification sites are only used when necessary. **Targeted Applications and Reduced Use:** A targeted approach of applying pesticides only when and where necessary reduces the chance of pollinator exposure has been implemented. Chemical pesticides have been reduced and are a last effort measure. **Applying Pesticides During Pollinator Inactivity:** Spraying pesticides, when necessary is to occur only in the early morning or late evening when pollinators are less active to significantly reduce exposure. **Avoiding Blooms:** Pesticides are avoided on blooming plants since these attract pollinators. If spraying is necessary, only plants that aren't flowering or non-pollinator-attractive crops are treated. **Creating Pollinator Habitats:** Providing pollinator-friendly areas around managed landscapes helps offset the impact of pesticides by giving pollinators safe places to forage. This includes planting native flowering plants within the medians of Russell Parkway and avoiding pesticide use in these zones.

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

Keep Warner Robins Beautiful (KWRB) has taken a proactive role in local policy and initiatives aimed at protecting pollinators, people, and waterways from pesticide exposure. As a designated Bee City USA affiliate, KWRB leads by example, establishing pesticide-reduction initiatives and promoting pollinator habitats throughout the city. For instance, KWRB has overseen the planting of wildflower medians on Russell Parkway, reducing maintenance and eliminating the need for pesticides in these areas. These medians help create pesticide-free zones that are both visually appealing and ecologically beneficial, supporting pollinators by providing a safer habitat. In addition to landscape initiatives, KWRB actively advocates for policy changes that reduce reliance on harmful chemicals. This includes encouraging continued education in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, not only for city employees but residents alike, which focus on alternatives to conventional pesticides. Through partnerships with local schools and public presentations, KWRB raises awareness among residents and city officials about the benefits of pollinator-friendly practices and chemical reduction. KWRB also collaborates with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's

FieldWatch program, which helps coordinate pesticide applications with the locations of beekeepers and pollinator habitats, reducing unintended pesticide drift that could impact nearby areas. These efforts make KWRB a central player in Warner Robins' move toward sustainable, pollinator-conscious policies, showing that local beautification and environmental health can go hand in hand.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
Committee Director, Tiffany Bowen participated in a two day conference on ecologically based pest and vegetation management practices and planning.

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 that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- 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.

In Warner Robins, there are growing initiatives to reduce pesticide use in residential and business areas, focusing on educating the public and involving the community in pollinator protection. Here's a breakdown of the efforts:
Pollinator and School Presentations: Local organizations and environmental groups are hosting pollinator-focused presentations to raise awareness about the importance of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. These presentations often cover topics like the role of pollinators in food production, the risks associated with certain pesticides, and steps residents can take to create pollinator-friendly spaces. Schools in Warner Robins are also incorporating pollinator presentations, engaging students with hands-on activities, such as creating small pollinator gardens or "bee hotels" to attract native pollinators.
Mosquito Control Without Harmful Chemicals: To reduce the use of chemical-based mosquito control, Warner Robins is promoting natural and non-chemical methods. These include encouraging

residents to remove standing water where mosquitoes breed, use mosquito traps, and plant mosquito-repellent plants like citronella, lavender, and marigolds. Educational campaigns also highlight safe times and methods for mosquito treatments that minimize risk to pollinators. Master Gardener Advocacy: Master Gardener clubs in Warner Robins are actively advocating for reduced pesticide use and promoting natural alternatives among homeowners and business owners. They conduct workshops on integrated pest management (IPM) techniques, such as introducing beneficial insects, using physical barriers, and practicing crop rotation in gardens. Master Gardeners also participate in local events, offering resources and advice on creating pollinator-friendly landscapes. These efforts collectively aim to create a more pollinator-friendly environment in Warner Robins, improving public understanding of natural pest control methods and the value of supporting pollinator health.

[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)

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