

Bee City USA - Asheville

Report on 2024

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

We continued our Certified Pollinator Habitat program, based on our Recommended Western North Carolina Species List. We distributed more than 2200 milkweed plants throughout the community and consulted with numerous homeowners on their landscapes. We hosted our annual raffle for a 10×10 habitat and designed and installed the native plant garden for the winner. We have 3 pollinator gardens on city property that we manage. Additionally, our committee members provided pollinator education in area schools and led hundreds of students through a garden design and installation process.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?

11

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

312

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

11

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

10076

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden



Bill Jones, Betsy Savely and Florrie Funk pause to let Terri Lechner take their photo during a work day at the garden in the River Arts District that would soon be nearly washed away by devastating flooding caused by Hurricane Helene in late September.

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

In addition to tabling at events and giving presentations throughout the year, we hosted a 12-month “Certified Pollinator Advocate” series of 1.5 hour classes on pollinator ecology topics. Each winter we bring the community together for the “Great Buzz Gathering” to share exciting local accomplishments in pollinator conservation. In honor of National Pollinator Week, we hosted several events in June including showing 4 films, a moth night, guests presenters including Dr. Stephen Buchmann, and a kids’ scavenger hunt at the tailgate market for foods that need pollinators. We also offered complementary registrations for teachers wishing to participate in the Symbolic Monarch Migration program. We installed the first 2 stations on our Asheville Butterfly Trail, with a goal of having at least 10 stations on the Trail located throughout Buncombe County. Each station includes human-scale butterfly wings and an interpretive sign with a QR code for more information about each butterfly on our website.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?

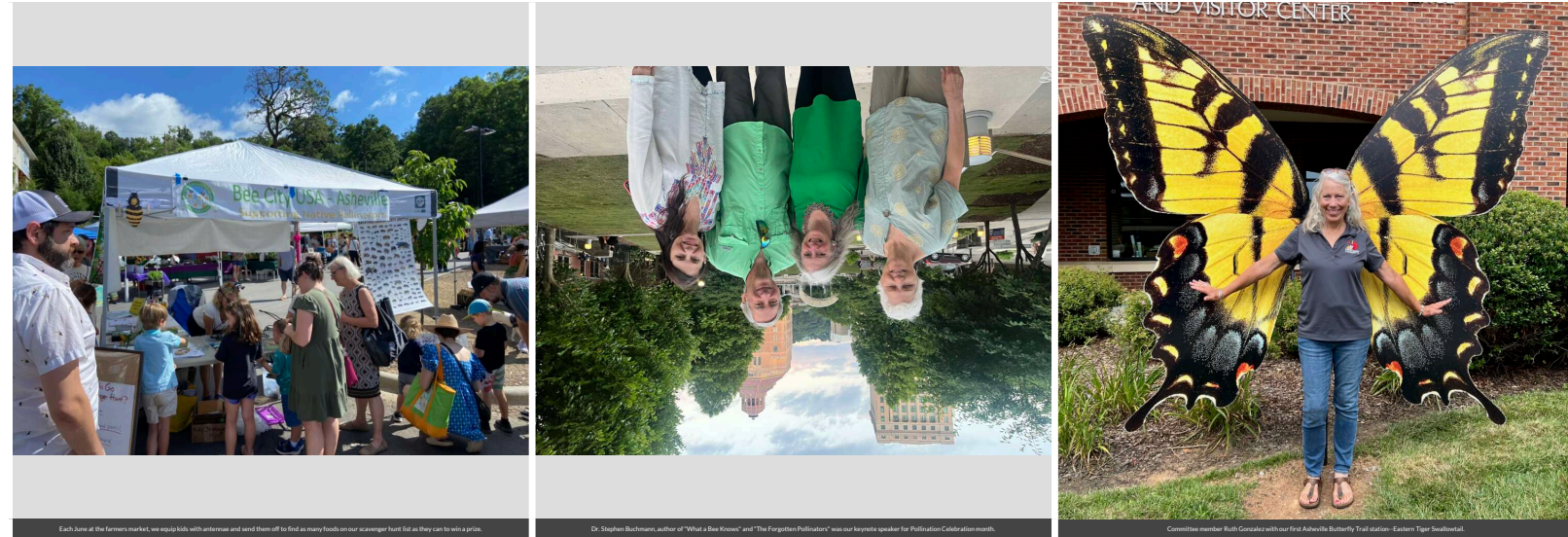
33

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1040

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

2



Policies & Practices

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

We include messaging about pollinator-friendly pest management in every presentation we do.

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

Our committee hosted classes on "Preventing Mosquito Outbreaks to Protect Pollinators" and "Pollinator Friendly Pest Management," two of the classes in our 12-month "Certified Pollinator Advocate" series.

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

- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods 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 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

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We really enjoy collaborating with other organizations for outreach programs. For example, we manage the 12-month “Certified Pollinator Advocate” series but hold it at the Asheville Botanical Gardens in partnership.

Committee Photo



Front row L-R: Stacia Payne, Rebecca Robertson, Ruth Gonzalez, Phyllis Stiles, Veronica Carlson; Back Row L-R: Katharine Weiser, Renee Caldwell, Bryan Tompkins, Barbars Anuzis, Virginia Currie, Jordan Diamond, Doug Cooper

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [BCU-AVL Plant Species & Supplier List 4-24.pdf](#)

<https://beecityasheville.org/native-plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [BCU-AVL Plant Species & Supplier List 4-24.pdf](#)

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