

Bee City USA - Carlinville

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.

Carlinville Area Hospital has a 40 acre natural area that had not been burned for several years, therefore weeds took over in many areas. A new plan to get control and improve the berms was designed in collaboration with local horticulturists, Bee City and Park District officials. Plants, (Elderberry, Redberry, blazing star, vervain, ironweed, grey head coneflower, sneezeweed, common milkweed, culvers root, slender mountain mint, foxglove penstemon) seed in plugs, others in seed, were donated and planted on three berms. Local tree trimming services donated and delivered mulch to curb weed growth over the winter so more planting can take place in the spring of 2026. The project is led by Rachel Legett, who is working on a Girl Scout Gold Project and sponsored by the Carlinville Area Hospital Auxillary and other volunteer organizations. The second large scale project is led by the Carlinville Park District. Invasive honeysuckle was removed at Tom Thumb Park as a part of a minor renovation to the playground area. At our largest park, Loveless Park, an expanded garden of 1800 square feet is in it's second year of a three phase project. The garden is dedicated to Dr. Charles Robertson, a famous bee researcher who studied, collected, researched and named over 200 bees within a ten mile radius of Carlinville during his tenure as a Professor at Blackburn College. Seeds and plugs for this garden were provided by Project Wingspan, in collaboration with Kahls Greenhouse. The plants were installed by volunteers. The area will be an attractive addition to the main entrance of the park. Among the plants you'll find growing soon in both projects are common milkweed, blazing star, blue vervain, ironweed, sneezeweed, culvers root, slender mountain mint, wild bergamot and foxglove penstemon and a white oak tree. Other established pollinator gardens on city and park property continue to be maintained by volunteers from the park district, the bee city team and Pathfinders youth group.

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

5

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

30

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

5

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

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 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
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



The Municipal building garden includes a native Serviceberry tree, New England aster, smooth aster, big blue stem grass, milk bark, choke berry and other berry producing bushes. The Public Safety building is host to a butterfly garden with bronze fennel, butterfly weed, autumn joy sedum, yarrow and other pollinators. Both gardens are high profile on North Broadway street (Old Route 66). Residents and visitors can easily photograph insects and observe the beauty of Swallowtail butterflies, native bees and Monarchs as they pass by. Photo: Mary Tinder



The Carlinville Bee City sculpture stands tall alongside Old Route 66 in Carlinville. The sculpture is at the entrance to the Carlinville Plaza Shopping Center where a Farmers Market takes place each Saturday morning during tourist season. The pollinators are a mid-west mix that withstands harsh conditions, full sun, poor soil and drought. Photo: Mary Tinder, complimented by a midwest mix of pollinators in bloom.

Education & Outreach

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

Pollinator friendly activities and educational resources are provided at the elementary and intermediate school, annually on Earth Day. Youth are involved in new plantings and clean ups in local parks. Two youth leaders have been designated in the middle school and high school to represent Bee City and increase awareness. The University of Illinois Extension Service horticulturist taught three separate programs open to the public that focused on landscapes, pollinator plants and pollinator garden designs. Thirty five members of the public attended. Our second gold star girl scout project is in progress (youth led). The first project increased awareness, the second increases pollinator habitat in collaboration with the Carlinville Hospital, Bee City, the Carlinville Hospital Auxiliary, Bee City, and the local Park District. The 40 acre natural area has three large berms that are being replanted with native trees and pollinator plants. Fourteen large planters that line the sidewalks at the Carlinville Plaza were re-planted adding pollinators, herbs and vegetables. Milkweed, liatris and zinnias are also established in the planters. Granny Wilson's Garden was re-vamped to include more heirloom vegetables and flowering herbs that bees love to dine on. Seeds were collected from other local gardens including: rose milkweed, liatris, and short aster. They were distributed in Granny Wilson's garden and shared with residents. The Carlinville Amtrak Pollinator garden was certified in April 2024 as a Roslyn Carter Butterfly Garden on the national butterfly trail map. The Mayor of Carlinville dedicated the garden and the public was invited to attend. Macoupin County Master Gardener's added a dedicated area in a show garden for more native plants and heirloom vegetables at the Macoupin County Historical Society. The garden includes edibles that are available to the historical society and community to pick and eat. At the MCHS fall festival, a youth led Bee City booth with educational resources and activities for children was set up and run by the Carlinville Queens and the Macoupin County Extension Service educators. The festival brings approximately 300 attendees so exposure is high for those strolling the grounds.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

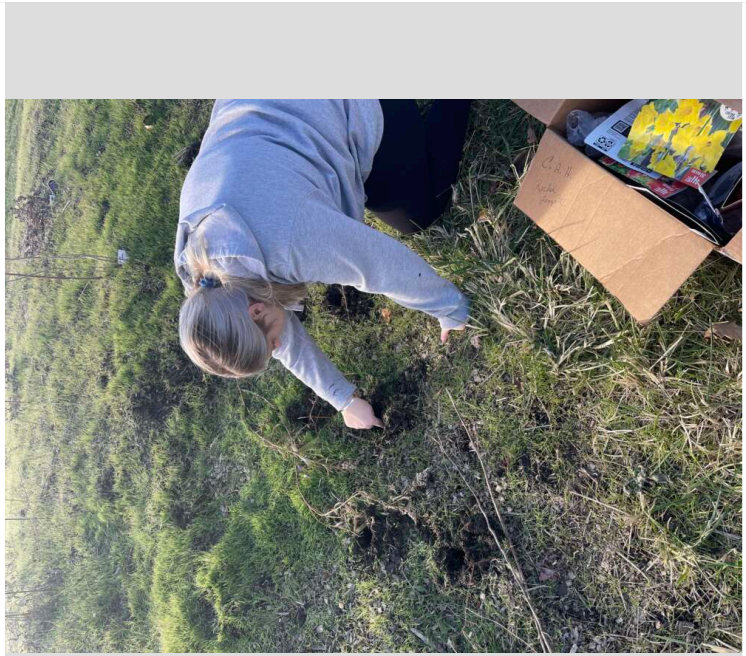
635

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

4



The Charles Robertson Tribute Garden is well underway. Robertson, a Carlinville native and Blackburn College professor is credited for naming over 200 new species of bees. The garden will be a gorgeous addition to the park that demonstrates the importance of pollinator plants and insects. It also reminds us of his place in environmental history. Photo Lori Hopping



Rachel Leggett, a Carlinville Girl Scout is restoring berms at the Carlinville Area Hospital natural area with native plants, and trees. Seeds and plants have been donated by the local Walmart, the Carlinville Bee City committee, Carlinville Hospital Auxiliary and Carlinville Park District. Photo by Julie Boente



Seeds for a new 1800 sq. ft. garden in Carlinville's Loveless Park were donated by Project Wingspan. This garden is one of many pollinator gardens in Loveless Park that line the road and walking trails. Photo: Lori Hopping



Although our new signs are not yet installed, we know how nice they will look! Photo Mary Tinder

Policies & Practices

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

On City of Carlinville sites, no chemicals are used. We hand pull all weeds taking great effort not to allow them to go to seed. The Carlinville Park district staff uses chemicals in area's to help control invasive plants which run along wooded areas. Staff is accompanied by a local Master Gardener who has extensive knowledge about the harm herbicides and pesticides do to our environment and so she actually educates as the chemicals are applied, ensuring the application rate is correct, minimal usage and applying at the correct time of day and conditions to minimize damage to the environment and it's inhabitants. The chair of Carlinville Bee City met with the city Public Works Director and received commitment that city employees will use no chemical spray in the city for weed control. No chemicals are used in the Master Gardener plots at the Macoupin County Historical Society.

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.

Because we are a small community, and the word gets out easily, we have made significant strides in reducing chemical use in residential neighborhoods. Two City council members and the Zoning Administrator at the city level are also proactive in educating the public about the dangers of chemical runoff in storm sewers. This is often a topic during City Council meetings as the city try's to better manage storm water and treatment.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Programs are offered on the benefits of buffers, rain gardens and swails. They are delivered locally at the Carlinville library and presented by the University of Illinois Extension Service educators.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
Our committee members educate themselves by watching University of Illinois video's and attending their local presentations, Bee City video's, Tree City video's.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan



In a city garden where no chemicals are used, goldenrod and sunflowers show off side by side. This garden is complete with pollinator plants, native redbud trees, heirloom herbs and vegetables. Photo Mary Tinder

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

The smallest effort can make a big difference.

Committee Photo



Carlinsville Bee City Youth leaders and sponsor. Photo Mary Tinder

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan 0320.doc](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>

<http://www.carlinvillebees.org>

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