

Bee City USA - Carrboro

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.

Town of Carrboro Planning and Public Works staff hosted an event for kids to make seed balls at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Children were able to make seed balls using compost, clay, and seeds from native pollinator-friendly species and throw the seed balls into a wetland area. Milkweed seeds were a primary component of the seed ball mix. Carrboro Town Planning Department staff also worked to plant milkweed seeds in a Town planting bed, in a roadside right-of-way, and within a roadside rain garden. Town staff also worked to replace non-native plants in planting beds at the Public Works Office with native plants, including Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

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

3

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

7

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

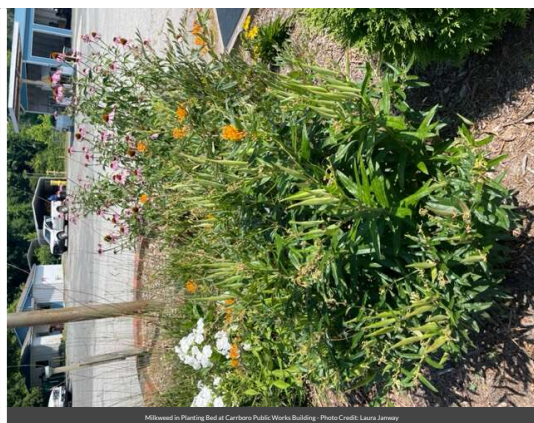
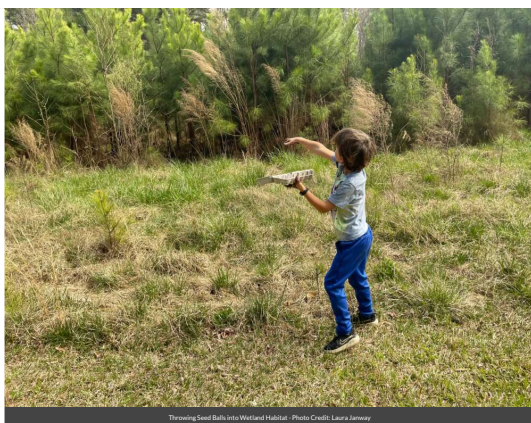
3

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

2614

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- Other



Education & Outreach

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

Town of Carrboro staff collaborated with the Carrboro Farmers' Market for a Pollinator Day kids' pollinator activity as part of their Market Bunch event series. Children were invited to make their own coffee filter butterflies, match pollinators with their preferred types of flowers, and color pollinator pictures. Staff gave out free milkweed seeds to attendees. The Town also held a free screening of the PBS film, *Butterfly Blueprints*, at the Carrboro Century Center. Town stormwater and sustainability staff celebrated National Moth Week by hosting a moth night event where residents could come view moths and learn to identify common species. More information can be found here: <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/2697/National-Moth-Week>. Staff also hosted two events for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census to help encourage participation in this citizen science initiative. More information can be found here: <https://www.carrboronc.gov/2933/Great-Southeast-Pollinator-Census>. The Town participated in outreach initiatives for National Invasive Species Awareness Week and No Mow May in the spring and Leave Your Leaves in the fall and promoted these initiatives throughout the community. More information can be found here: <https://www.townofcarrboro.org/2990/Invasive-Species-Week>, <https://www.townofcarrboro.org/2610/Leave-the-Leaves>.

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

111

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

4



Pollinator Day Kids' Activity at the Carrboro Farmers' Market - Photo Credit: Laura Jarney



Moth Night at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park - Photo Credit: Laura Jarney



Rosy Maple Moth found during Moth Night Event - Photo Credit: Heather Holley



Town Hall Bee City USA Sign - Photo Credit: Randy Dodd

Policies & Practices

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

The Town of Carrboro's integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) policy and program are a

combined comprehensive approach that gives priority to the prevention and management of pests including insects, weeds, and plant disease, through a proactive strategy. This strategy involves the thorough examination of all pest control methods available, starting with the least toxic methods first if feasible. The policy reduces the environmental health risk to municipal employees, visitors, and Town residents. It helps protect the environment and results in greater safety of public grounds, buildings, and sports fields, reduced exposure to chemical pesticides by those engaged in pest management, and acts as an example to residents and others.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
In June 2024, the Town's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator and Public Works Director met with a staff member of the organization Toxic Free NC to discuss the Town's IPM Policy.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- 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

Pollinator Habitat

"We can all avoid pesticides. We can all put nectar-rich native plants into the landscape. We can all advocate for green space. We can all teach kids about bees. It's not that we all need to become beekeepers. No, we all need to become bee protectors, bee champions."

--Alison Gillespie, author of [Hives in the City. Keeping Honey Bees Alive in an Urban World](#)

In October, 2014, Carrboro became the third municipality in the country to join [Bee City USA](#). Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, spread of pests and diseases, intensification and industrialization of apiculture, and reduced genetic diversity. Becoming a Bee City USA affiliate publicly announces Carrboro's intention to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators. For municipal operations, Carrboro has been pursuing a [Least Toxic Integrated Pest Management Policy](#) since the 1990s that recognizes the importance of avoiding and minimizing impacts of municipal operations on pollinators and other species.

Website Screenshot - Photo Credit: Laura Janway

Committee Photo



Carrboro's Climate Action Team and Environmental Advisory Board Merged in 2024 to form one advisory board. Photo Credit: Laura Janway

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Town of Carrboro Updated IPM Policy 2017.pdf](#)

<https://carrboro.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5130508&GUID=08B62D57-39ED-4B43-A31D-70ADE58863D2>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>