

Bee City USA - Charleston

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 held an event with James Island Charter High School to construct a pollinator garden on campus, with an emphasis on milkweed plants to benefit monarch butterflies. The goal was to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nesting sites, and reducing the use of pesticides. The event with the 3rd graders of Oakland Elementary was to plant beneficial pollinator plants and educate youth about the importance of pollinators. The event with Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission was to plant additional pollinator plants within county parks that have room. The goal of this event were to improve habitat for pollinators and stabilize a riparian zone with pollinator plants that park guests can also enjoy. A native tree giveaway was held in September, allowing residents in tree deficient areas to pick up two free native trees to plant on private property. This event was hosted by the City and Bee City committee.

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?

132

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

3

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

31880

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

- Flower garden
- 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 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

Honey Bee Expo – Educating the public on beekeeping, honey bees specifically, and pollinators as a whole. This was a

pollinator awareness or education event focused on native pollinators and steps to conserve them. USFW Plantings – School campus activity to educate students about the importance of native pollinators with an emphasis on milkweed plants to benefit monarch butterflies. National Pollinator Week – Social media posts for National Pollinator week that promoted the goal of the week, native bees vs honey bees, creating native pollinator habitat, birds as pollinators, Bee City Charleston explanation, nighttime pollinators, and reducing chemical usage. Pollinator themed litter sweep – Kids litter sweep in June also included an educational lesson about pollinators and National Pollinator Week. All mentioned above were events hosted by our Bee City Charleston Committee.

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

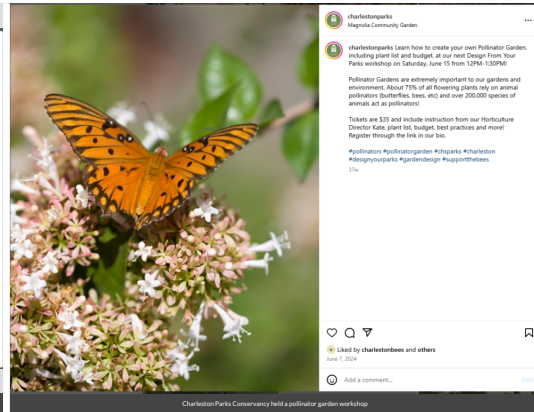
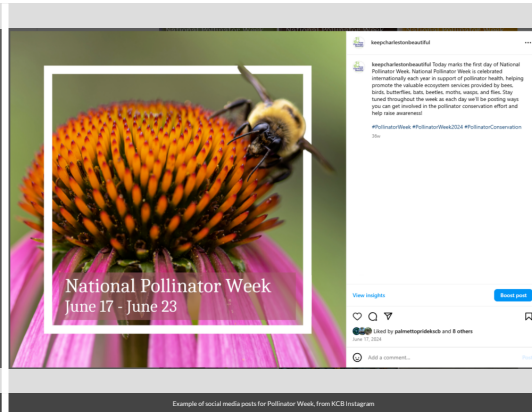
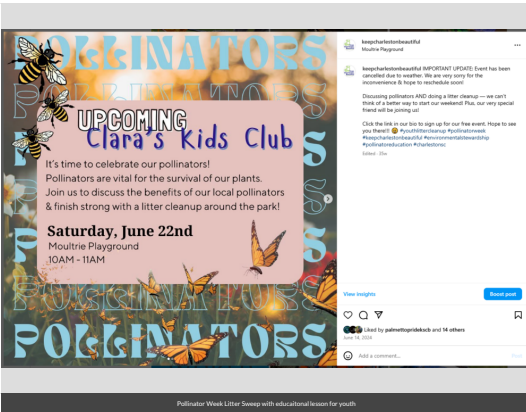
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How many people attended those events (in total)?

697

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

1



Policies & Practices

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

Education about reducing spraying for insect pests/mosquitoes. Encouraging locations throughout the City to utilize mosquito dunk techniques instead, which do not harm pollinating insects.

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.

We believe residents are becoming more involved and knowledgeable about this effort, and are changing landscaping

habits on their private property. The City of Charleston Horticulture staff as well as the Charleston Parks Conservancy, are trying to switch to native perennials and utilize more pollinator friendly weeding techniques (by hand). We've seen a growing interest among citizens and a quest for more knowledge related to this topic!

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
No.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
No

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**
- **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>)**

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
No

Committee Photo



Jamie Gillette

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2621/Pollinator-Plants-for-the-Southeast-Regi>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2621/Pollinator-Plants-for-the-Southeast-Regi>

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2619/Bee-City-USA-Pollinator-Program>

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