

Bee City USA - Clarkson

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 worked on cleaning out our pollinator garden from the winter and replacing any flowers that had died. We also worked on expanding the size the garden. In addition, the Mayor approached us about planting flowers in a bed around a welcome sign at the City Park. The Public Trails Association worked with us and they also planted a flowering tree, a butterfly bush, and some other additional flowers near the garden. The goal is to get milkweed and other similar items planted and then apply to become a certified Monarch Waystation in 2025. The City of Clarkson once again celebrated Pollinator Week in September during the City's annual Honeyfest. The Honeyfest celebrates the City's ties to the beekeeping industry. We are home to the Kelley Beekeeping Company, one of the largest distributors of bee-keeping supplies in the country. Our Honeyfest, which was in its 29th year in 2024, has been declared the "Official State Honey Festival" by the Kentucky General Assembly. This honor was established by law in 2006, and is listed among Kentucky's other state symbols and emblems (Link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=35>). Clarkson has also been proclaimed the "Honey Bee Capital of Kentucky" by the General Assembly. In 2024, we once again successfully lobbied the Governor to issue a proclamation celebrating bees and other pollinators by declaring the month of September as "Honey Month" in Kentucky. And the City Commission issued a proclamation declaring August 17, 2024 to be "National Honey Bee Day." At the City's annual Honeyfest last year, there were several local vendors on hand selling honey as well as food and other related items made from honey and other products that were produced with help from pollinators. A couple of those same vendors set up at the City's newest event, the Clarkson Park Springfest, last May. In June 2023 the City planted and dedicated our first pollinator garden at Clarkson City Park. Lastly, we worked with the Public Trails Association and Grayson County, to receive an official state-certified Trail Town designation by the Commonwealth of Kentucky last fall. The designation includes Leitchfield, Clarkson, and the rest of Grayson County.

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

2

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

12

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

1

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

350

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

- Flower garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Education & Outreach

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

The City reached out to the Public Trails Association of Grayson County for help with revitalizing and expanding our pollinator garden at our City Park. They also helped with planting flowers. We also worked with them to develop a plans for 2025 for planting milk weed at the park and taking other steps to get the Pollinator Garden a Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

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

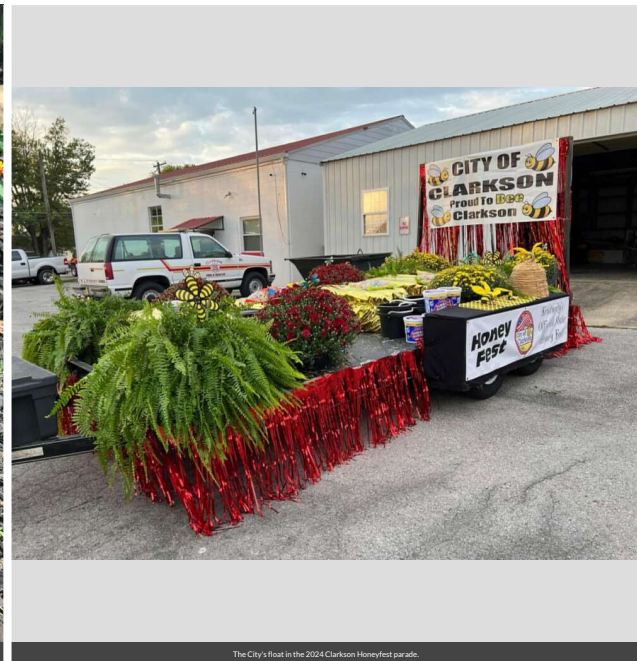
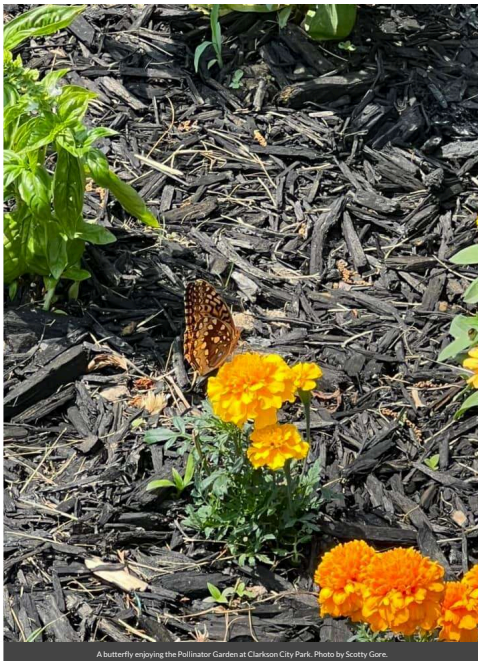
2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

30

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

5



Policies & Practices

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

We are not spraying any pesticides in most areas of the park, to allow to create more pollinator-friendly grassy areas as well as woodland areas of the park. We have plenty of those types of opportunities as we have a mile long nature trail on the back side of our City Park, as well as several wooded areas between the nature trail and the rest of the park.

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.

Not at this time.

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

Not at this time.

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

No.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We have learned that even small things can make a difference, such as our little pollinator garden. The pollinators swarm it each summer when it is in bloom, showing us that even small gestures can make a difference.

Committee Photo



Clarkson Bee City USA Committee members (from left to right): Mayor Bonnie Henderson, City Commissioner Michael Anderson, City Commissioner Joyce Bell, and City Clerk-Treasurer Scotty Gore. Not pictured: City Commissioner Tim Faulkner and City Commissioner Tammy Schultz. Photo by River Anderson.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV_Bee_KY-Pollinator-Pro-Plan.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

<http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-kytn.htm>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.knps.org/native-plant-suppliers-service-providers-listing/>

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