

Bee City USA - College Park

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.

For Good Neighbor Day (a community service partnership between the City of College Park and University of Maryland), we hosted an event to establish a new “food forest,” including native wildflower patches providing pollinator food as well as native trees and shrubs (e.g., persimmon, serviceberry) that produce fruit edible for humans. Volunteers from the community joined us to remove turf and create and landscape the new plantings. We hosted a native planting event in the Calvert Hills neighborhood of College Park. We participated in 4 garden cleanups at Cherokee Garden, Guilford Road, and the College Park Trolley Trail. We partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey’s native bee lab in Laurel, MD. We grew over 1,000 seedlings in pots that we distributed for public plantings in College Park (including Good Neighbor Day) and to community members when we tabled at events.

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

6

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

45

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

12

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

10500

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 pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Good Neighbor day expansion and care of pollinator garden, Calvert Hills, Photo Credit: Anahi Espindola

Good Neighbor Day volunteers plant and landscape native trees at new food forest, Photo credit: Ariela Haber

Education & Outreach

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

We coordinated No Mow April and followed up with a resident survey. We participated in the College Park Parade in May and distributed seed packages along the route. Approximately 700 residents attended. We hosted a table at the Hollywood Farmers Market in College Park in June for Pollinator Week, as well as one day each in July, September, and November. We distributed native plants, native wildflower seeds, and educational materials targeted to both adults and children. We hosted a table at College Park Day where we distributed educational materials, pollinator-themed activities and art projects for children, wildflower seeds, and native plants.

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

13

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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

3



Bee City Committee Table at College Park Day. Photo credit: Terra Virsilas



Policies & Practices

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

We wrote educational articles for community publications on the impacts of pesticides and recommended safe, environmentally-friendly alternatives to pesticide use.

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 recently established a collaboration with another city advisory board, the Committee for a Better Environment, to evaluate pesticide use by the City and residents, create an improved pest management plan for the City, and create and distribute education materials to residents. We are compiling a list of training opportunities on sustainable and pollinator-friendly landscaping that we will recommend for City staff. Later this year, members of both committees will meet with City staff for a briefing on current pesticide use and protocol, and we will work with them to implement and hold them accountable to an integrated pest management plan.

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

Stormwater management structures are being installed in conjunction with development projects that capture slow and filter rainwater before it enters creeks and streams to help filter out pollutants. Local artists are painting murals on storm drain inlets to increase awareness about pollutants and runoff.

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

No, our committee didn't participate in any continuing education on IPM planning this year.



Pollinator Paradise!

Artist Claire Huang, is located along Narragansett Parkway before the intersection of 52nd Avenue. Completed in 2024.

College Park Storm Drain Mural. Photo Credit: City of College Park

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

No.

Committee Photo



Bee City Committee at Calvert Hills Pollinator Garden. Photo Credit: Anahi Espindola

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CP IPM program AE BA.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant Guide for Pollinators.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2823/Native-Plant-Guide-for-Pollinators?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Local native plant vendor List 2023.pdf](#)

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4203/Local-native-plant-vendor-List-2023>

<https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/322/Insects-Pollinators>
publicworks@collegeparkmd.gov