

Bee City USA - City of Denton

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.

The City of Denton participates in continual privet removal efforts to enhance native habitat in four sites, including Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center and Bowling Green community garden. A 450 square foot pollinator garden was also created at the entrance to the Materials Recovery Facility, operated by Pratt Recycling Inc. that services all of Denton and several surrounding areas. The pollinator garden can also be seen by those heading towards the City of Denton's Landfill and Beneficial Reuse facilities. The garden contains 105 plants of 12 different species, including native milkweeds. This garden was funded in partnership with Pratt Recycling Inc. and a grant awarded to the City of Denton. A planting event occurred in October 2024 and brought in around 40 volunteers from a local Girl Scout troop and Denton ISD students. Denton also provided information and resources to several residents to aid them in the creation of their own pollinator habitats through classes and tabling events.

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

32

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

70

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

20

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

500

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
- Meadow

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Native Pollinator Garden Planting Event; photo by Karen Boerner



Native Pollinator Garden Planting Event; photo by Audre Rees

Education & Outreach

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

Throughout 2024, the City of Denton hosted several education and outreach activities that included information about pollinator conservation. The pollinator focused classes included What's the Buzz on Beekeeping, presented by the

Denton County Beekeepers Association, Pollinator pals, a kids class that teaches the how and who of pollination, and a native pollinator garden planting event. In addition to pollinator specific programs, pollinator conservation and health is included in a variety of other classes such as Denton's Wildlife Habitat Program, Animals of North Texas, and in portions of trivia night we host at local breweries.

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

15

How many people attended those events (in total)?

252

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

4





Policies & Practices

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

An Integrated Pest Management Plan is utilized for all City of Denton landscapes. Parks staff monitor landscape and evaluate the health of plants to proactively address pest activity with non-chemical control strategies to prevent infestation. If infestation does occur, and chemical control is required, all efforts will be made to use the least toxic, most effective, and most efficient chemical. It is applied when the pests are at their most vulnerable stages and when it carries the least possible impact for people, property, and the environment.

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.

Many Denton residents are choosing to be pesticide free, and the City of Denton offers some incentives to encourage them. Denton's participation in the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat Program encourages residents to create habitat in their green spaces and maintain them with sustainable practices, including reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides. On top of that, the City also offers the Denton Wildlife Steward program which offers incentives, such as wildflower seeds and gardening tools, for certification with NWF and a pledge to follow sustainable practices. The City also includes information about invasive species in several different classes, both how to remove them and how to avoid them from the beginning before they can become a problem.

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

The Integrated Pest Management Plan continues to be evaluated and updated.

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

The City of Denton did not participate in any continuing education on IPM this past year.



No-Mow Area; photo by Kaci Martin

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Including the community in the Pratt Recycling Inc. garden made them feel more connected to the project and provided them the information needed to create their own pollinator gardens. For example, the Girl Scout troop that helped plant the garden now has obtained a grant to create more pollinator gardens in the community.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.cityofdenton.com/219/Integrated-Pest-Management-IPM-Resources>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mtianpd6frl36gj/NPSOT%20North%20Central%20TX%20List%202020.0719%20fixed.pdf?e>

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Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.npsot.org/our-work/nice-native-plant-partners/>

<http://sustainabledenton.com>

sustainabledenton@cityofdenton.com

<https://www.instagram.com/sustainabledenton>

<https://www.facebook.com/sustainabledenton>