

Bee City USA - Dunwoody

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.

Dunwoody Community Garden & Orchard follows organic gardening methods in all garden areas. They maintain the following pollinator-friendly areas at the Garden and Greenhouse Complex: Main Garden: 2 Entry Pollinator Beds (approximately 400 SF total) 2 Linear Pollinator Beds (approximately 600 SF total) 96 member-leased 4'X8' garden plots (approximately 3072 SF) 28 food pantry plots (donations to Malachi's Storehouse) (approximately 900 SF) Organic Fruit Orchard (approximately 30 fruit trees – SF unknown) underplanted with clover, daffodils, and other pollinator friendly plants Greenhouse Complex: Butterfly Garden (approximately 500 SF total) Shade Garden (approximately 500 SF total) Native Milkweed bed (approximately 25 SF) 14 food pantry plots (donations to Malachi's Storehouse) (approximately 450 SF) The member-leased beds and food pantry beds are planted with vegetables, fruits, herbs, and pollinator-attracting plants. The pollinator beds are planted with a mix of native and non-native plants chosen specifically to attract bees, wasps, and butterflies. In addition, there are many individual planters of flowering plants at the Greenhouse complex (number varies seasonally). Additionally, members from the committee assisted with two City of Dunwoody events, a Native Tree Planting and daffodil planting in Brook Run Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and on Arbor Day. The City of Dunwoody is participating in a Front Yard Tree Planting Program with Trees Atlanta and 160 native trees have been planted so far.

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

12

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

100

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

2

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

700

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
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



TREES ATLANTA
**Front
 Yard
 Tree
 Planting
 Program**
 Dunwoody



Volunteers doing plantings on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (photo creds: City of Dunwoody).

Education & Outreach

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

The Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard held monthly Master Gardener-led classes at the Barn in Brook Run Park, most of which address the importance of pollinators and organic gardening practices. DCGO also heavily promoted the Great Pollinator Census, an annual event sponsored by the University of Georgia Extension, with their membership. They regularly engaged with civic groups (e.g., local companies and Scout troops) to provide education on garden topics, including pollinators. Their Greenhouse provides most of the plants that go into the pantry beds and into many of the member-leased plots. They also supply several local community gardens and civic groups with organically-grown plants. Additionally, the Dunwoody Nature Center hosted the annual Butterfly Experience, which was held from September 7 to September 8. The Butterfly Experience provided activities, crafts, and educational experiences centered around butterflies for all ages.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

200

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

2





Bee Dunwoody volunteers with the street sign (photo creds: City of Dunwoody).

Policies & Practices

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

Following organic practices and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in all garden areas has been a key part of the DCGO bylaws from the day the garden was founded. DCGO is home to two Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer groups (approximately 20 Master Gardeners), who ensure that organic practices and IPM are followed. Organic gardening practices and Integrated Pest Management is required learning to earn the Master Gardener certification. Their “Diagnosing Common Garden Problems” class covers the basics of IPM – focusing on the facts that most garden problems are environmental/cultural and that the vast majority of insects are either harmless or beneficial. They also instruct on use of OMRI-approved treatments for pest and disease control – with a focus on protecting beneficial pollinators while doing so. They encourage their members to select plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoids. Additionally, Bee Dunwoody and the City of Dunwoody provided education to residents in the form of social media posts and emails with tips for creating pollinator gardens and to encourage the reduction or elimination of 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.

Yes, the Dunwoody Community Garden & Orchard provides education on reducing pesticide use.

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

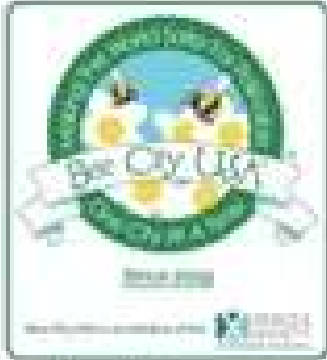
Yes, we are researching Integrated Pest Management Plans.

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

City staff attended two training sessions on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and have been reviewing other cities’ IPM plans and programs.

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

- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids



Bee Dunwoody's Pollinator Pledge

Yes! I will do my best to maintain my land to protect and promote the health of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, etc. by caring for our local ecosystem in these sustainable ways:

1. Growing pollinator-friendly, preferably native, plants, shrubs, and trees.
2. Protecting bee nests and caterpillar host plants.
3. Using plants, or seeds of plants, that are not treated with neonicotinoids, which are toxic to pollinators.
4. Foregoing the use of broad pesticides, especially insecticides such as mosquito spraying for lawns.
5. Talking to others about the importance of pollinators and their habitat.
6. Supporting pollinator-friendly businesses whenever possible.

Signed: _____

Name (First, Last) _____

Email _____



A Pollinator Pledge in which residents are encouraged to participate (photo creds: City of Dunwoody).

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
Partnering with local organizations is key.

Committee Photo



City of Dunwoody Sustainability Committee with city staff (photo creds: City of Dunwoody).

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant Species List.pdf](#)

<https://www.dunwoodyga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2176/637823536621330000>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers List.pdf](#)

<https://www.dunwoodyga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2178/637823536502870000>

<https://www.dunwoodyga.gov/government/departments/community-development/about/sustainability-committee/bee-city-usa>

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