

# Bee City USA - Durham

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.*

City of Durham's General Services Department (Landscape Services) has, throughout the year, been working to enhance pollinator habitat across 10 landscapes in downtown Durham, converting approximately 30,900 square feet of turf and non-native plantings into native pollinator habitat. They planted 645 native trees of 17 different species and 6000 herbaceous perennials or shrubs of 38 different species, all of which are generally accepted as beneficial to pollinators. The Durham County Sustainability office planted 22 trees for the Mitzvah Day Tree Planting Event. The North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) held several workdays, including the EarthShare Planting Day in the Woodcroft community, Volunteer Day with the Merrick-Moore Community Development Corporation (MMCDC), an Elderberry Wood Workday, a garden workday with the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club, and a Tree Planting event with the Eno River Association. The New Hope Bird Alliance assisted master gardeners on providing pollinator gardens for four city parks and distributed bird friendly yard certifications following pollinator garden enhancements. Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN) worked with master gardeners on a pollinator garden and planted pollinator plants for a pollinator in youth garden. MMCDC facilitated several events, including a bulb planting at the Samuel Green Senior community garden as well as an invasive plant removal effort and prep for a new pollinator garden.

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

15

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

195

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

15

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

1724320

*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
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden
- Other

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## Education & Outreach

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

Keep Durham Beautiful hosted Durham Bee Day during National Pollinator Week, a Durham Garden Tour, a Native Planting Tour Series, and Native Plant Forum. North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF) co-hosted Festival for the Eno (EnoFest), a two-day celebration of the Eno River Watershed, made possible with the help of over 300 volunteers. NCWF also participated in the 3rd Annual Bee Day Celebration, collaborated with the Museum of Life and Science to host an eclipse and monarch migration celebration, held a pollinator identification workshop, presented on the butterfly highway and distributed seed balls to community members. In collaboration with Toxic Free NC, Keep Durham Beautiful, and New Hope Bird Alliance bilingual Spray Free Zone yard signs were distributed to raise awareness of the harm of using pesticides on local pollinator populations. Another collaboration between these organizations and Bee City included a book talk event with NC author and bee veterinarian Elizabeth Hilborn on the impact of neonic-coated seeds. The Durham County Beekeepers Association (DCBA) held several events throughout the year, including Durham Public Schools Hub Farm Annual Fall Fest, Fall Harvest at Duke Gardens, Bees, Bee and Butterflies event at the Museum of Life and Science, Festival for the Eno, Duke Homestead Family Farm Animal Day, 3rd Annual Durham Bee Day, Earth Day Festival at Durham Academy, Durham Earth Day at Durham Central Park,

Family Festival at Forestview Elementary School and Hope Creek Academy, Lakewood Elementary Science Night, Master Gardener Plant Festival with Durham County Extension Office, and DCBA Bee School, a 9-week program for new and aspiring beekeepers on honey bee biology and stewardship/management. Merrick-Moore Community Development Corporation (MMCDC) held two classes, seed starting and composting.

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

28

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

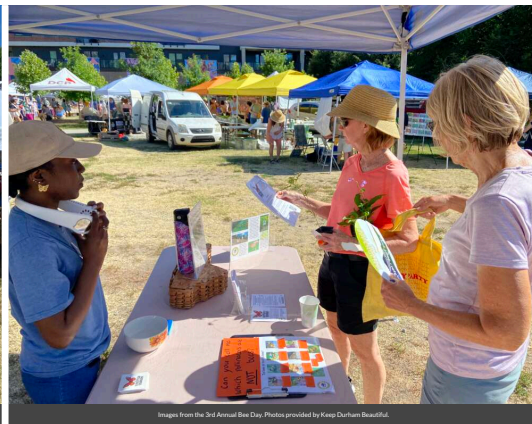
2056

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

1



Images from the 3rd Annual Bee Day. Photos provided by Keep Durham Beautiful.



Images from the 3rd Annual Bee Day. Photos provided by Keep Durham Beautiful.



An image of the Pollinator Identification Workshop. Photo provided by NCWF.



Bee City Durham courtesy of Keep Durham Beautiful

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## Policies & Practices

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

City of Durham's General Services Department (Landscape Services) The City of Durham Landscape Services does its best to avoid pesticide use in city sites with pollinator habitats and has eliminated pesticide use to maintain the aesthetics of city-owned grounds. They have adopted a no-neonicotinoid insecticide practice and implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods to reduce the area of city-managed lands on which pesticides are applied. Toxic Free NC (TFNC) circulated and submitted a sign-on letter for public comment to the EPA on the need for

stronger regulation of pesticide-coated seeds, garnering signatures from 30 organizations. Toxic Free NC also distributes bilingual Spray Free Zone yard signs year-round.

*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.*

Multiple organizations, including Keep Durham Beautiful, New Hope Audubon Society, and Extension Master Gardener's Volunteers of Durham County have hosted workshops and forums to educate the community, landscapers, and businesses alike on integrative pest management tactics. In addition, Toxic Free NC has continued to distribute bilingual "spray free" pesticide zone signs year-round to the local community.

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

The City of Durham landscaping services have implemented a no-neonicotinoid insecticide practice on city-managed properties. The landscaping services have reduced the area of city lands where pesticides are applied. They no longer use pesticides for aesthetic purposes and have adopted non-chemical pest prevention methods.

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

Yes, in tandem with City of Durham Urban Forestry and Landscaping department, members of the committee attended a seminar hosted by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension focused on IPM.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Having a diverse group of businesses and organizations be a part of the committee is important because each group has their own unique resources and perspectives

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Committee Photo

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

<https://ipm.ces.ncsu.edu/>

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

<https://ncwf.org/habitat/native-pollinator-plants/>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HAFFrqkUSgBfgAVmmx3H-zEJxJnKjzq7of926Elw0sE/edit#gid=0>

info@keepdurhambeautiful.org



