

# Bee City USA - Fauquier County

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.*

In 2024, while our committee did not directly create new pollinator habitat projects, we took significant steps toward enhancing our community's natural spaces. We identified eight key locations throughout the county as potential sites for new wildflower gardens and meadows, aiming to support local pollinators and enrich biodiversity. Additionally, because our committee is closely connected with the Parks and Recreation Department, we actively encouraged our maintenance crews to distribute wildflower seeds in underutilized areas of various parks. This approach allows us to foster pollinator-friendly environments while maximizing existing resources and partnerships. Though we may not have hosted formal habitat creation events, our efforts continue to lay the groundwork for future enhancements in the community.

*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?*

121

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

1

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

133280

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden

## We Need Bees Committee

### Warrenton Christmas Parade Giveaway

#### Native Seed Packets Include:

- Allegheny Monkeyflower
- Gray Goldenrod
- Grassleaf Goldenrod
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Lyre-leaf Sage
- Wild Bergamot
- Virginia Mountain Mint
- Narrowleaf Mountain Mint
- Forked Blue Curls
- Purpletop
- Purple Lovegrass
- Little Bluestem
- White Vervain
- Blue Vervain
- Smooth Beard-tongue

Seeds collected and donated by:  
**The Clifton Institute**



Clifton Institute Photographer (maintained habitat Photo)

## Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, our community actively participated in several impactful pollinator conservation events and outreach activities. At a Farm Festival, a committee member hosted an engaging pollinator station, providing visitors with valuable information on the importance of pollinators and ways to support their habitats. Additionally, an insect walk at a Riverside Preserve allowed attendees to observe pollinators in their natural environment, fostering a deeper appreciation for these essential creatures. During the annual Christmas parade, we passed out native, pollinator-friendly seeds to encourage residents to grow plants that support local pollinator populations. At Bradley Elementary School, our committee organized an educational pollinator presentation, accompanied by an exciting art contest in which students designed covers for our next native seed packets. We selected ten winners, showcasing their creative contributions to pollinator awareness. These efforts helped engage the community, inspire conservation actions, and emphasize the vital role of pollinators in our ecosystem.

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

10

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

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

14



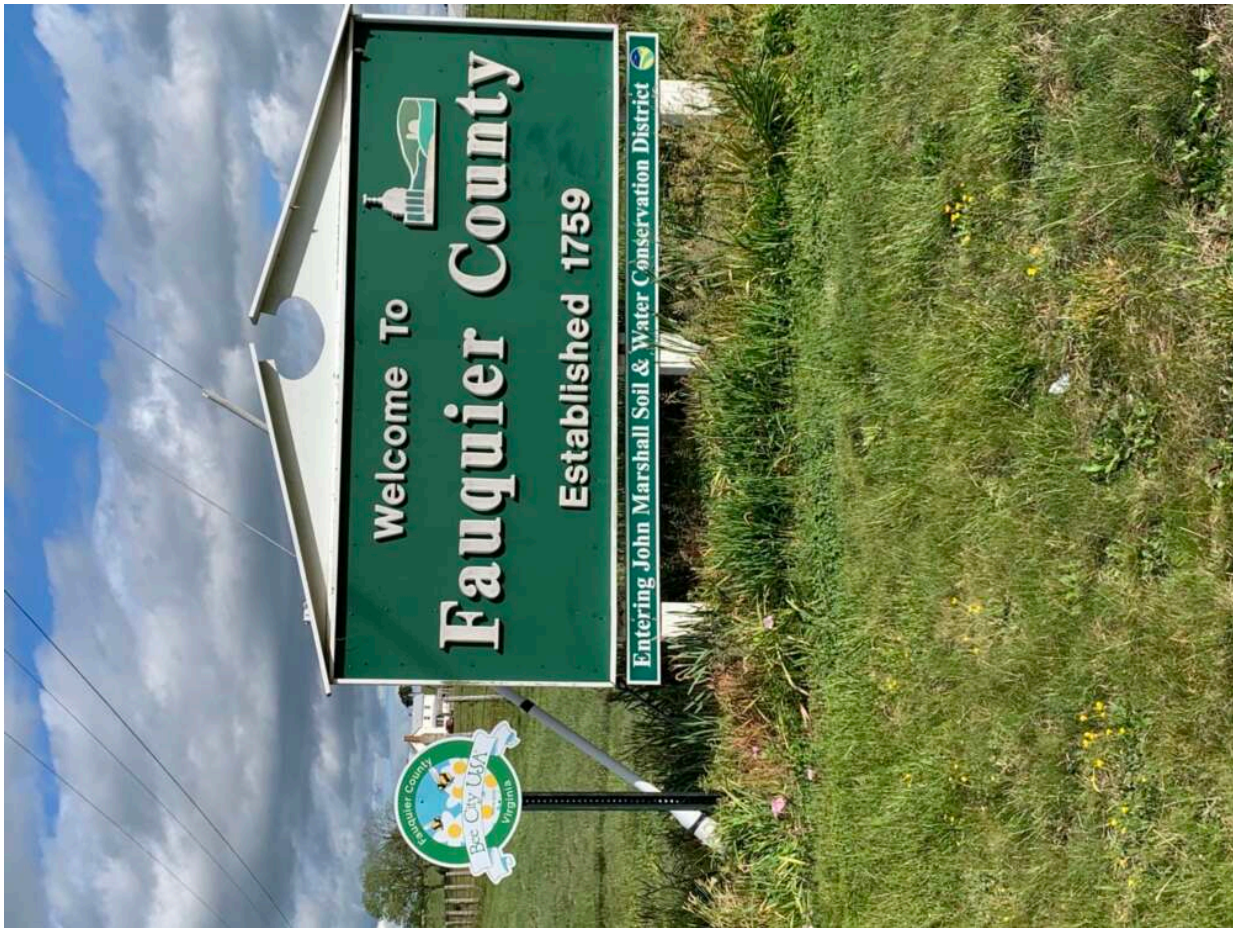
Nature Insect Walk, Clifton Institute



Learn Lab Study, Clifton Institute



Bee Presentation at C.M. Bradley Elementary (Aimee O'Grady)



Fauquier County Parks and Recreation, (Michael Hanson)

## Policies & Practices

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

To make pest management more pollinator-friendly, we have implemented several key strategies. In 2024, we focused on reducing pesticide use across all parks and trails by adhering to the Fauquier Parks and Recreation policy and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. This plan prioritizes targeted, least-toxic treatments and natural solutions to control pests while minimizing harm to pollinators. The Committee utilized social media to educate residents and businesses on supporting pollinators, offering helpful tips on reducing pesticide use in their own spaces and sharing Bee City informational links.

*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.*

In 2024, we focused on implementing and managing the Fauquier Parks and Recreation policy and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to significantly reduce pesticide use across all parks and trail locations in our county.

Additionally, the Committee developed an informative flyer to educate residents and businesses on ways they can support pollinators. This initiative also serves as a fundraising effort to promote and finance native planting projects, further enhancing our community's commitment to sustainability. The committee chairman also frequently makes recommendations to add native trees for community development projects, ensuring that our efforts contribute to long-term environmental resilience.

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

The Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan is actively working to reduce the use of harmful pesticides across all county parks and trails. This effort aligns with our commitment as a Bee City, ensuring better protection for pollinators while promoting a healthier environment for residents and local waterways.

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

Yes, our committee engages in continuing education on ecologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) planning. Both the Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman have delivered presentations at Master Gardener events, sharing current strategies to promote sustainable pest management practices within our community parks.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied



Parks and Recreation Maintenance crew maintaining wildflowers

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

We've learned that community engagement is essential, it strengthens our message and enhances our efforts when we actively connect with residents. Another valuable lesson is the power of collaboration with environmental organizations. Every committee member is either employed by or volunteers with an environmental group, allowing us to consistently work together to expand pollinator events, activities, and educational presentations.

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Committee Photo



Committee Field Trip to Local Park for early spring Wildflower planning (Fauquier Parks and Recreation)

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM Plan.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [pied-nat-plants \(1\).pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Clifton Institute Recommended Nurseries.pdf](#)

<https://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/parks-and-recreation/bee-city-usa>  
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<https://www.facebook.com/beecityfauquier>