

Bee City USA - Gainesville

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.

Bubbe's Secret Garden: This native plant garden is part of a larger refresh of Alachua Conservation Trust's newly acquired downtown property. The garden utilizes Florida native wildflowers, vines and shrubs that provide vital resources for native butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. It includes signage with a QR code that links to a web page with profiles of the plants utilized (<https://www.flawildflowers.org/bee-city-garden-bubbes-secret-garden/>). The planting event was hosted in partnership with Bee City Gainesville and Alachua Conservation Trust. **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship:** Installed in December 2024, this demonstration garden utilizes Florida native wildflowers and shrubs that provide vital resources for native butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife. Located along a well-traveled road, this garden is parallel to a busy sidewalk, allowing passersby to engage with the garden. It includes signage with a QR code that links to a web page with profiles of the plants utilized (<https://www.flawildflowers.org/bee-city-garden-uu-fellowship/>). The planting was hosted in partnership with Bee City Gainesville and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville.

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?

57

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

2

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

2415

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

- Flower garden
- 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
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Education & Outreach

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

Bee City Gainesville tabled at the following events, providing Bee City bookmarks and stickers, as well as other native plant-related handouts from the Florida Wildflower Foundation: ☐ Alachua County Master Gardener plant sale, with 1200-1300 attendees. ☐ Pollinator Palooza event, held at First Magnitude Brewery and hosted by the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History McGuire Center for Lepidoptery. An estimated 700 people attended. The event included a native plant giveaway and exhibits from local conservation groups. In addition to our outreach materials, we also had native plant coloring sheets and word searches for children. ☐ Fall Horticultural Expo hosted by Gainesville Garden Club. Over 1,000 attendees shopped for native plants and listened to Doug Tallamy speak. In addition to our outreach materials, we provided bee masks for kids to cut and color. Bee City volunteers participated in the City's annual Flying Pig Parade. They carried a Bee City banner and dressed up as bees and other pollinators. (The parade prohibits distribution of materials or anything considered disposable.) We also launched Bee City Gainesville Facebook group and newsletter.

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

4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

4000



Bee City Gainesville outreach table at Fall Horticultural Festival (Photo: Marina Mertz)



Bee City Gainesville supporters all dressed up for the Flying Pig Parade (Photo: Janice Garry)



Bee City outreach table with pollinator display. (Photo: Janice Garry)

Policies & Practices

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

No chemicals are used in site preparation or maintenance of any garden we install. We purchase plants from native nurseries that also use no chemicals.

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.

Not at this time, but our committee is exploring options and continues to meet quarterly to collaborate with the community and local partners. We also choose to work with partners who do not use pesticides (e.g., native plant nurseries, landscape professionals, etc.).

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

We are meeting regularly with City staff to develop an IPM policy, as well as to create guidelines for the public.

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

We attended the IMP Tool Kit Webinar.

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

- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids



Solarization site prep for Bubbe's Secret Garden, an herbicide-free way to prep a site for planting (Photo: Stacey Matrazzo)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

No

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Community-Pages/Community/About-Gainesville/Bee-City-USA%20AE-City-of-Gainesville>

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