

Bee City USA - Gastonia

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.

Our work is also seen through the engagement and enhancement of community garden spaces. We maintained our Community Garden in a historically black neighborhood and also worked with 2 local schools to upgrade their school garden spaces. These were all hosted by our committee and staff members.

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

10

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

120

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

1

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

30000

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
- Meadow



Photo Credit: Juliann Lehman Students gathered in our community garden near our planting kindness beds.

Education & Outreach

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

Each May, we host our Beetopia event. A day to celebrate bees, butterflies, and all things pollinator-related. This event is held in conjunction with our Farmers Market celebrating the fact that without bees there would be no market. We also have elementary environmental education programs. For 1st grade the Hive Jive, Teaches the different jobs of

bees in the hive, Correlates the jobs of the bees to people and how we each play a role, and Introduces the importance of bees. For third grade, Project Pollination, Discusses how do pollinators pollinate, Why bees specifically are vital to our agricultural economy, and How we can steward safe spaces for pollinators. We also promoted and participated in the Great Pollinator Census encouraging others to join us.

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

12

How many people attended those events (in total)?

2800

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

7

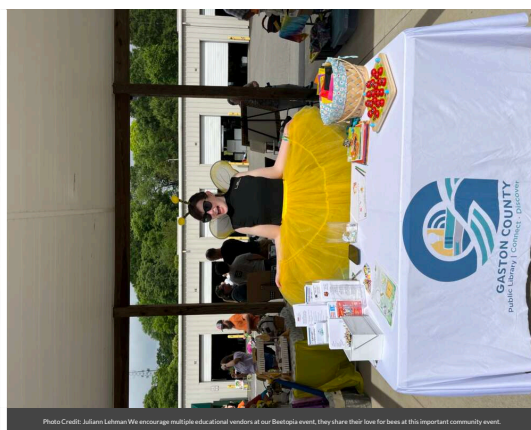




Photo Credit: Juliann Lehman One of our signs near one of the busiest intersections in the town (taken early in the a.m.)

Policies & Practices

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

Implemented and maintained a written IPM plan with our parks and recreation department. Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features. Implemented non-chemical pest prevention in our community garden space.

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.

We have shared initiatives like No Mow May through our recognized communities, we have 19 currently. They are all active, larger neighborhoods who are interested in ways to reduce pesticides as a community.

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

At this time there are no initiatives underway; however, with implementing our IPM we know not to spray need

waterways and protected pollinator areas throughout the downtown district.

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

Parks and Recreation staff take trainings both online and in person on IPM to maintain CE's and gain better knowledge of best practices throughout the year.

Committee Photo



Photo Credit: Chris Hardin This is the entire Keep Gastonia Beautiful board, we have a Bee City USA committee within the board.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Integrated_Pest_Management.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf](https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf)

<https://gardeningwithcreekside.com/>

<https://gastonians.gov/bee-city-usa.html>

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