

Bee City USA - Gloucester 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.

At one of our county parks we created a 196 sq foot garden with wildflowers especially black eyed susans, and a Dogwood tree. This will enhance our park area in the summer as well as add another area for pollinators in this area where there is not much food for them. We have also added plants to the pollinator garden that we established last year. Milkweed especially in order to help with the population of monarchs in our area. Our Bee City volunteers meet at least quarterly to care for the beds.

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

1

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

11

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

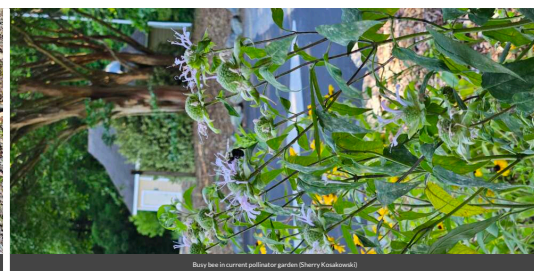
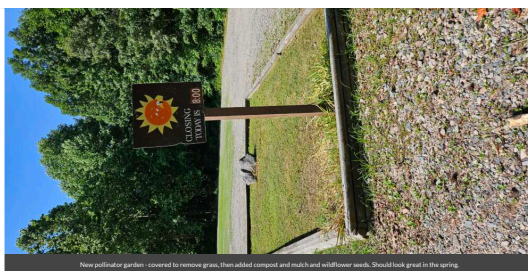
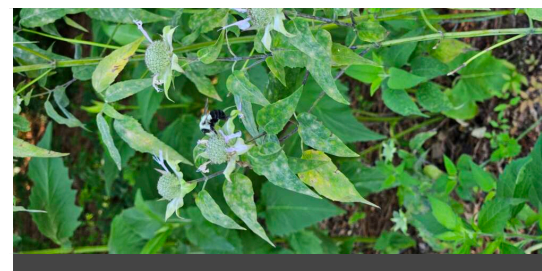
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

196

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Education & Outreach

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

2024 was a fun year for Bee City in Gloucester. We started spring off right with our Daffodil Festival Parade in which 5 of our committee members marched while displaying a banner and signs to promote helping pollinators. After the parade, we had a display and educational table set up to education the public on how to support pollinators in their own back yards. We had a guest girl scout who built (with the help of her father) and handed out bee houses for those in our county who were interested to helping mason bees. It was a great way to get a group like girl scouts involved and interested. We were able to educate many visitors to our county as well as residents. Our next adventure was having seed bomb making! We set up at our local park for Earth Day with the makings for seed bombs. Groups could come by and get their hands dirty. After they finished they could bring the seed bombs home or throw them in designated areas at our park, where we had signs with targets so the kids could have fun hitting the targets. Our Liaison Sherry spoke to several school groups about the importance of supporting our local native bees which included Meaningful Watershed Education Experience twice in 2024, Achilles Elementary Bay Days, Homeschool Groups, Bible School, Community Helpers week with Kindergarten. In June we celebrated Pollinator week with a display at a local floral supplier, Brent and Becky's Bulbs. Then moved the display to our Main Library where it was ready to be discovered by all who visited for the whole month of July! Many handouts with how to build bee houses, what plants are native and where to purchase them locally, as well as kids coloring pages on native bees. One of our Committee members, Mary Runnells created a log like display that shows how native bees created their nests and lay their eggs. It has been a wonderful teaching tool. We rolled right into Comix Con at the library in the beginning of August, where about 2,000 people attended. In the fall other committee members where able to give talks about native bees and plants to local garden clubs. All Spring and Summer we were busy maintaining and supplementing our existing pollinator gardens and hosting volunteers to help with the efforts. We ended 2024 with another chance to display our banner in the annual Gloucester Christmas Parade. Leave the Leaves is our favorite sign to display during that one!

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

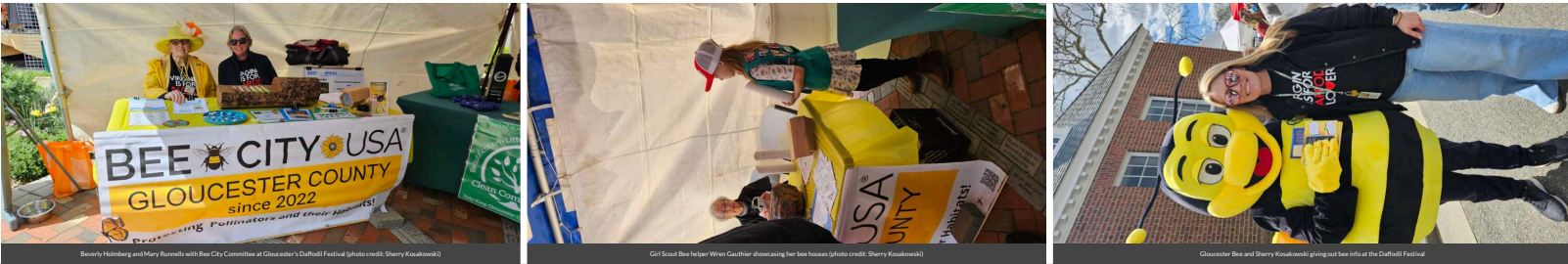
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How many people attended those events (in total)?

27328

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

1



Bee City USA Gloucester County at Beaverdam Park (Sherry Kosakowski)

Policies & Practices

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

We have worked hard to get our IPM plan out to the public and make others more aware of what they are purchasing and why. Even the talks we give to kids involve having them ask their parents to think before they buy pesticides at the store.

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.

Again we are trying to spread the word by giving out information as well as word of mouth throughout our community.

Whether that is speaking to a neighbor, a group during one of our events, or grassroots efforts using social media.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Not yet, we are still trying to get across our initiatives to Board of Supervisors in our county.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
We attending continuing education through Bee City, like the IPM Toolkit Webinar and Sherry attended the Best Practices for Pollinators Summit.



At this display, we handed out lots of info on why pesticides are harmful and how the public can take alternative steps in their gardens.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

People are interested, they just don't always know the best way to help. Getting the word out on simple yet effective ways they can help in their own backyard. We start most of our talks with a list just a few things they can change.

Committee Photo



Sherry, Susan, Alexis, Rose, Chris, Ginny, Pamela, Mary and Henry, Beverly in front (Photo by: Susan Ammons)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Bee City USA IPM Final 2024.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Short List of Gloucester Native Plants.pdf](#)

<https://gloucesterva.gov/clean-community/blog/native-plants>

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

<https://gloucesterva.gov/clean-community#beecity>
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<https://www.instagram.com/visitgloucesterva/?hl=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/GloPRT>