

Bee City USA - Greenwood

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.

A significant amount of enhancement took place at the City of Greenwood Rain Garden, and the Uptown Farmers market. Continuous invasive species removal and additional planting of pollinator friendly plants also occurred.

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?

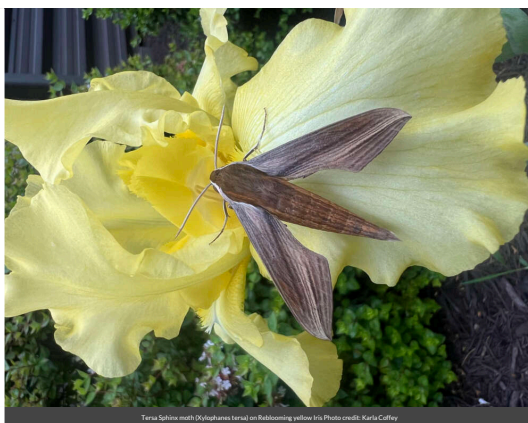
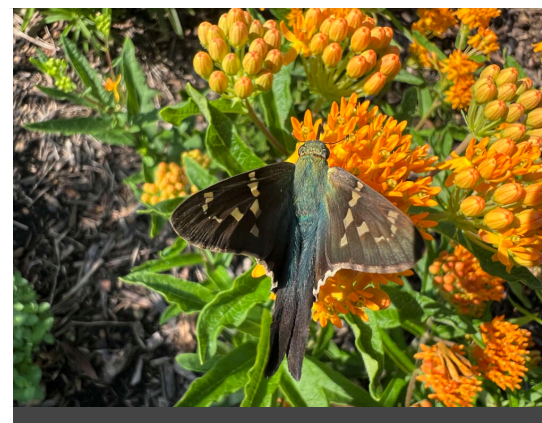
50

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

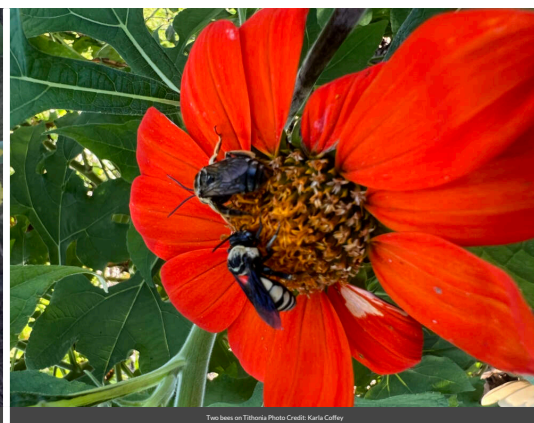
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Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Herb 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
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Tera Sphinx moth (Xylophanes tera) on Blooming yellow lily Photo credit: Karla Colley



Two bees on Tibbata Photo Credit: Karla Colley

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 gave an educational talk on pollinators to over 100 people for the Garden Club of South Carolina. Bee City presented a Lunch and Learn at our local Clemson Extension office on Pollinators on March 7, 2024. 20 people attended. Bee City spoke on Pollinators at Wesley Commons on June 13, 2024. Approximately 30 people attended. Bee City was involved in an educational outreach event hosted by Clemson Extension at the City of Greenwood's Rain Garden on how to control invasive plant species like wax privet on October 24, 2024. approximately 20 people attended. Bee City conducted a Pollinator census on August 23rd, 2024. 10 people attended. Bee City partnered with the South Carolina Festival of Flowers and hosted a "Pollinator Scavenger Hunt" on June 20th, 2024. 20 children and 10 adults participated.

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

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

210

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

1



Pollinator Scavenger Hunt on 6/20/24 Photo Credit: Ann Barklow



Pollinator talk at The Garden Club of South Carolina Photo credit: Ann Barklow



Pollinator Census on 8/23/24 Photo credit: Ann Barklow



Policies & Practices

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

Organic IPM strategies are part of standard operation within the City of Greenwood's three production greenhouses. Minimal use of pesticides helps ensure that the plants we introduce to the environment for annual plantings are 100% pollinator friendly, so even planted areas not designated 'Pollinator Gardens' are still functional for wildlife use, save costs, and reduce health risk to employees. The city also mostly hand pulls weeds which reduces the need for pesticides.

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.

The City of Greenwood continues to adhere to Bee City guidelines, but other organizations in the community have started to gain interest in pollinator habitat creation as well. One such organization is Lander University, which planted native wildflower seeds around a newly renovated storm water basin in spring 2024. A new student led garden club also formed in 2024, with interests in eco friendly gardening and organic vegetable production. Only time will tell if the University continues the eco-friendly gardening practices on campus, but a future Bee Campus affiliate is a possibility. We hope to see even more advancements this year.

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

Our involvement in BeeCity USA is the major initiative to specifically protect pollinators, but there is an organization called Preserving Lake Greenwood that works to educate and promote policy responsibility for Lake Greenwood, our major municipal water source. In the future we hope to collaborate with them.

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

Yes, especially at the Invasive control educational event hosted by Clemson Extension on Oct. 24th.

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
- 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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds

- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- 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
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids



Educational event discussing control of invasive shrubs Photo Credit: Ann Barklow

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We have learned that some years may be more 'relaxed' (in terms of educational events held) than others and that's okay! The City of Greenwood underwent a lot of personnel changes in 2024 as well as significant damage from Hurricane Helene. Transitional periods can be challenging and major disasters make being understaffed even more difficult. Policy initiatives like Bee City help to alleviate community anxiety about the environment, as well as protect the health and safety of employees even if they are unaware of them. Bee City remains as something we are very proud to be.

Committee Photo



Greenwood's Bee City Committee Photo credit: Ann Barklow

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM policy for pest management City of Greenwood.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [City Pollinator Garden Plant List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: