

Bee City USA - Hampton

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.

1. Created a pollinator garden at Bluebird Gap Farm, a city owned park/farm that hosts approximately 3000 attendees per week. The garden is approximately 20×100. More than 150 locally sourced, native plants were purchased for the garden and installed by our BC USA-Hampton team, along with several volunteers. Over 70 hours was spent prepping the area and installing the plants. Mulch was donated by a local landscaping company to dress the plot. Educational signage was designed and installed. Please see photos! 2. Clean City office pollinator garden refresh.

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?

21

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

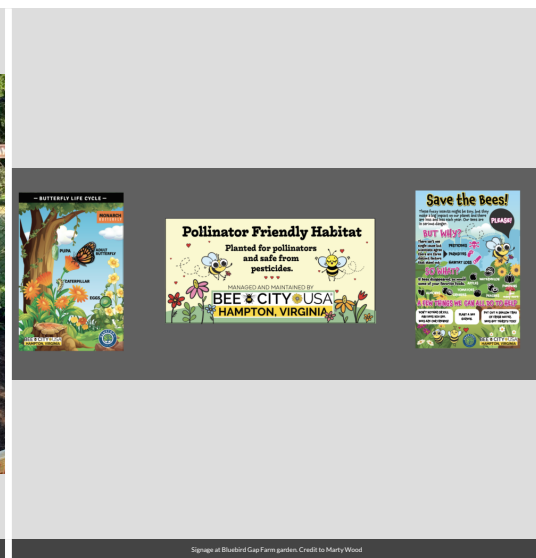
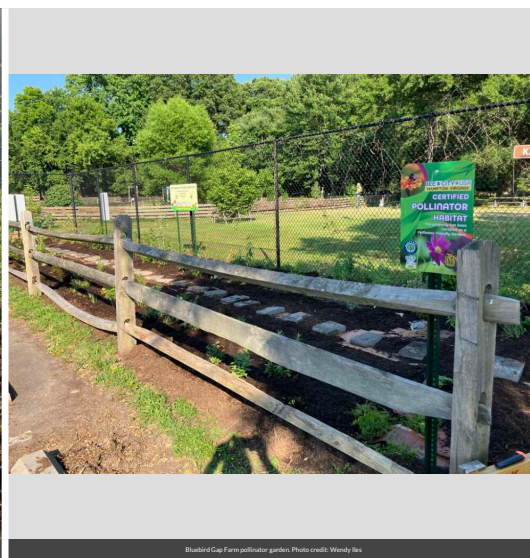
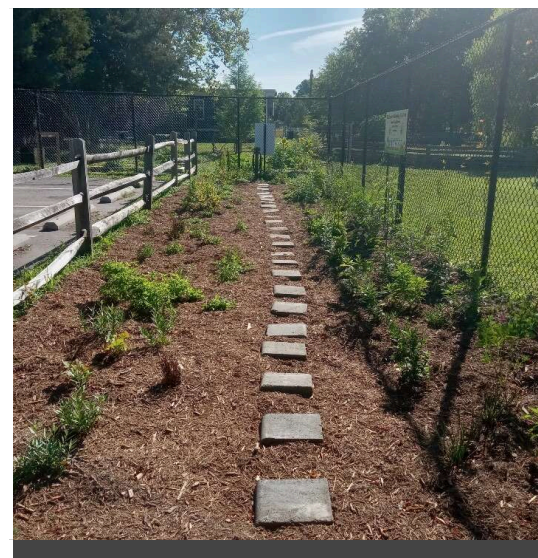
2

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

2500

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)
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



Education & Outreach

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

~Participated in Outreach: Clean City's Earth Day event, Honey Fest, Buckroe Beach Farmers Market, Peake Childcare Center education outreach, Creation Care Day, Kilgore Gifted Center Environmental Fair, Hampton Library Summer Reading Program, TWICS STEM (Seeds, Bees, and Trees Festival) Event, STEM Exploration Community Event, Hampton Wonder Walk, Hampton Women's Club (speakers) ~Committee hosted Webinars: Bats of Virginia, Shade Gardens, Enchanting Blooms (Fairy Gardens), Products of the Hive, In the Lives of Wasps, The Buzz on Bees, and Neonics and Bees with a total of 96 independent registrations. The webinars were promoted via social media, the city's e-News and beecityusa.org

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

18

How many people attended those events (in total)?

2800

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

3



Bee Balm kit distribution for TWICS STEM event. Photo Credit: Wendy Iles



Bee City team at Earth Day event. Photo credit: April Reover



Bee City USA Hampton tree at Wonder Walk. Photo credit: April Reover



New design replacing older BC signs! Credit: Marty Wood

Policies & Practices

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

Hosted Pesticide webinar, social media outreach (graphics, educational posts), distributed literature at farmers market and community events

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 the time.

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

There are plans for a pollinator meadow that we will be advising on, which will be pesticide free.

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

Outreach at city and community events.

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**
- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**
- **Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids**

IPM Mission Statement:

To insure public health and safety while continuing compliance with federal and state environmental agency mandates acting as entrusted stewards for the City of Hampton's environmental and ecological resources.

Integrated pest management (IPM) programs are essential and effective ways to manage any pest. The City of Hampton Public Works Department utilizes a successful integrated mosquito control strategy that includes several tactics to eliminate mosquitoes and their habitats. Four basic disciplines of a successful integrated mosquito management program (IMM) are:

1. Cultural Control Practices -
2. Mechanical Control Practices - 3. Biological Control Practices - 4. Chemical Control Practices -



1. Cultural Control Practices-

An important part of mosquito control around residential areas is making sure that mosquitoes do not have a place to lay their eggs. Mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, and it is important to monitor standing water sources. Source reduction practices like dumping containers that hold water, or reducing standing water are common cultural controls.

Community involvement is essential for source reduction in urban areas. Public outreach and education are also important tools. Residents, neighbors, and landlords can all be proactive in eliminating even the smallest sources of standing water. The Asian Tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, has evolved so that they can reproduce in the most minimal aquatic environment. Residents that engage in source reduction provide one of the most effective and cost saving means of controlling The Asian Tiger mosquito.

Larva and egg controls can be effective, inexpensive, methods to control mosquitoes, but these interventions are not likely to be 100% effective, especially for mosquitoes like the *Aedes albopictus* that breed in varied and scattered locations. Eliminating or treating all or even most standing water sources can be nearly impossible. Successful control efforts will need to supplement habitat removal with other means of source reduction.

Some examples of cultural mosquito control practices are as follows:

- Remove of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed (Source Reduction).
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Learn volunteer's strengths and then lean into them. Don't assume everyone has the same talents or interests.

Committee Photo

Learn More

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

Recommended Native Plant List: [Brochure - Revised 9-10-20.docx](#)

https://hampton.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30382/Native-Pollinator-Plants_DG?bidId=

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

<https://vnps.org/view/native-plant-nurseries/>

<https://hampton.gov/3759/Bee-City-USA>

HCCC@Hampton.gov

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BeeCityUSAHamptonVA>