

# Bee City USA - Hillsborough

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.*

**We had several volunteer led projects, including 8 work days at our pollinator gardens and weekly invasive species removal and native planting projects along the riverside, which has created roughly 32,000 square feet of new habitat.**

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

13

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

37

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

1

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

74864

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

- Flower garden
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Weekly volunteer led plantings and invasive removal project

Volunteers remove invasives along river

## Education & Outreach

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

Hosted with the Hillsborough Garden Club: 500 Free wildflower seed packets distributed during pollinator week at 2 separate events. A free open gardens walking tour. Publicized pollinator information by flyers, social media posts, and local news paper articles. Encouraged merchants and organizations to observe Pollinator Week with product promotions, displays, window decorations, etc. and help distribute seed packets. Several nearly monthly garden club meeting focusing on pollinators and related projects. Hosted a Huge plant sale that distributed mainly native plants and pollinator plants. Hosted by the Town and the Tree Board: Encouraged no mow lawns with press releases. Promoted several education videos on the Town Website. Put out press releases regarding invasive species, pollinators, and other related information.

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

15

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

1706

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

2



National Pollinator Week banner at local park

Join town employees and volunteers on Riverwalk to

## HELP REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS

**2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 20**

Check with your supervisor. ✓

Meet at the Riverwalk entrance near Weaver Street Market.

Wear long pants, long sleeves and closed-toe shoes. Bring work gloves and a water bottle.

Bring loppers, hand pruners and hand saws to use or share if you have them.

Enjoy working alongside new people!

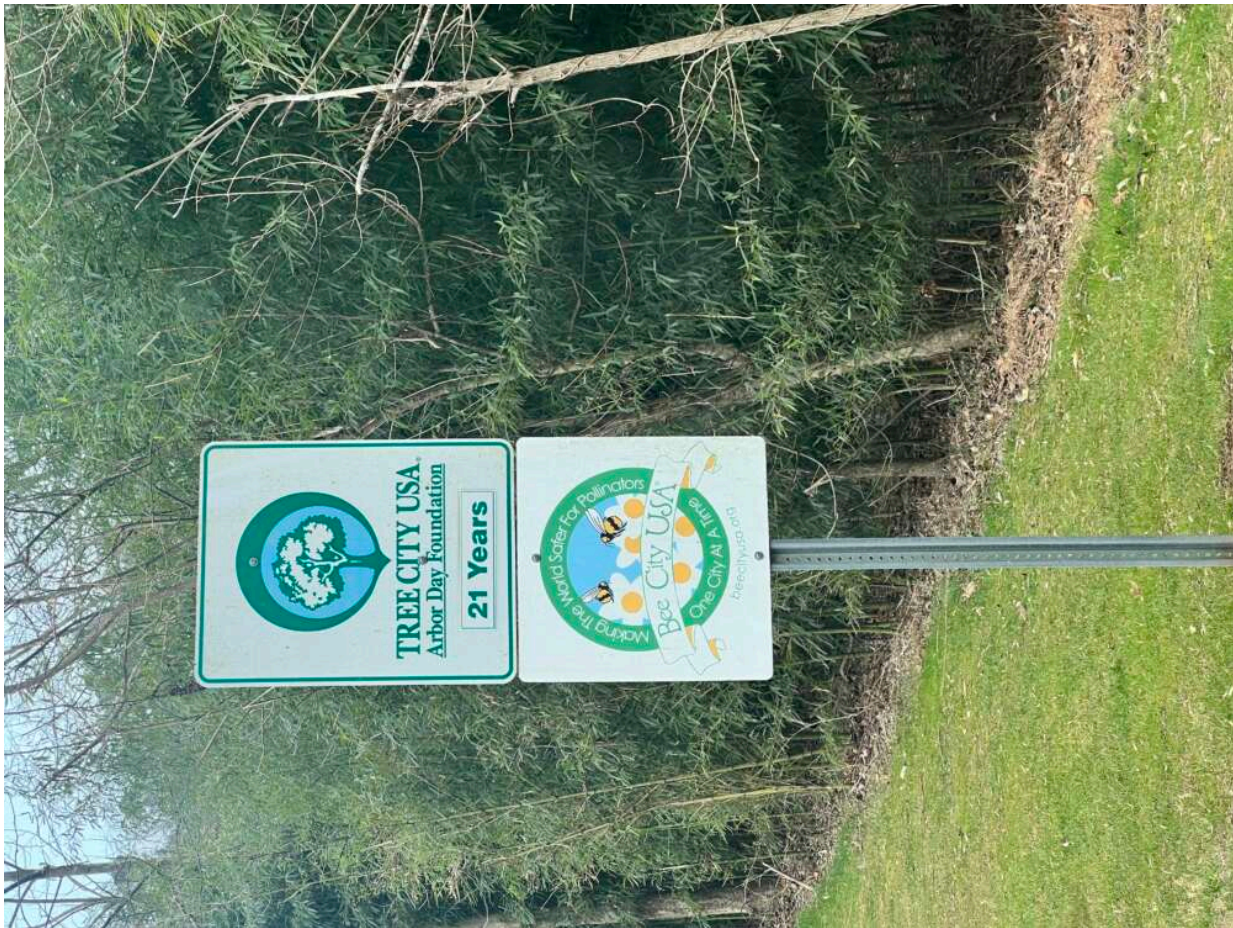
Town wide Employee volunteer opportunity to remove invasive still grass

# BEWARE OF FIG BUTTERCUP

**Three steps you can take to help eliminate this invasive plant:**

- 1. Learn more about it.**  
The fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*) is native to Europe, North Africa and West Asia. The plant forms many small bulbs, or bulbets, and quickly creates a thick carpet of plant material that chokes out native plants. It can take over lowlands near creeks and rivers as well as lawns and flower beds. The plant's bulbets wash downstream during heavy rain events, establishing the plant in new locations.
- 2. Identify it.**  
The fig buttercup is a low-growing green plant with rubbery heart-shaped leaves and 8 to 12 thin yellow petals. It blooms in February and early March, making those months a great time to identify and eradicate the plant.
- 3. Report it.**  
If you see a plant that may be a fig buttercup, contact Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew at [lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov](mailto:lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov) or 919-296-9600. The bulbets spread rapidly when disturbed, so please don't try to remove the plant. Volunteers will identify the plant and remove it. They also work with property owners to remove fig buttercup on private property in the most effective way.

Publication to report invasive Fig Buttercup



Bee City Sign and local park

## Policies & Practices

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

The Town has a newly created IPM. Additionally, we have a section regarding pest management in our contract for Grounds Maintenance. It reads “No pesticides or herbicides will be used in landscaped or lawn areas without prior written approval from the Project Contact for the Client. All chemicals shall be used in strict accordance with the intent of the Client to maintain a healthy, sustainable landscape that will minimize the need for and use of chemical controls.” We promote no mow gardens and alternative ways to deal with invasive species.

*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 continue to share and promote online resources and worked in coordination with the Master gardeners who produce educational videos such as: Edible Landscapes, Rain Gardens, and Native Plants/Pollinators and more. The videos are about 10-15 minutes long each and are posted on the Town Website.

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

We have an ordinance to encourage No Mow landscapes and a newly approve Integrated Pest Management Plan.

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

We have created a Integrated Pest Management Plan which was developed an approved by our Tree Board.



**PROCLAMATION**  
**Native Plant Month**  
April 2024

**WHEREAS**, native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, native plants are vital for maintaining and restoring the healthy ecosystem needed to sustain our environment, including seed dispersal; pollination of crops and natural vegetation; prevention of flooding, drought, and erosion; regulation of disease-carrying organisms; and moderation of weather extremes; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to more than 3,900 native plant species, including trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers, making it one of the most diverse states for native plants in the Southeast; and

**WHEREAS**, native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, amphibians and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and

**WHEREAS**, 969 of the native plant species in North Carolina have been designated as significantly rare and/or in decline and may be in danger of extinction; and

**WHEREAS**, 94 of those 969 imperiled plants have been found in Orange County;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as **Native Plant Month** to recognize the many benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the Town of Hillsborough.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 2024.



*Mark Bell*

Mark Bell, Mayor  
Town of Hillsborough

Native Plant Month Proclamation

## Committee Photo



Tree Board and Volunteers at a planting event

---

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan.pdf](#)

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

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [native-plant-and-seed-suppliers.pdf](#)

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/government/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa/>

<https://www.hillsboroughnc.gov/about-us/appointed-boards/tree-board/bee-city-usa>

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

