

# Bee City USA - Keene

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.*

In 2024 the Edgewood neighborhood, with the assistance of Keene Parks and Recreation and the Keene Conservation Commission erected a pollinator garden around the flag pole in their village green. This area was planted with native shrubs and perennials. The garden formed a 33 foot diameter circle (~800 sq feet)

*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?*

10

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

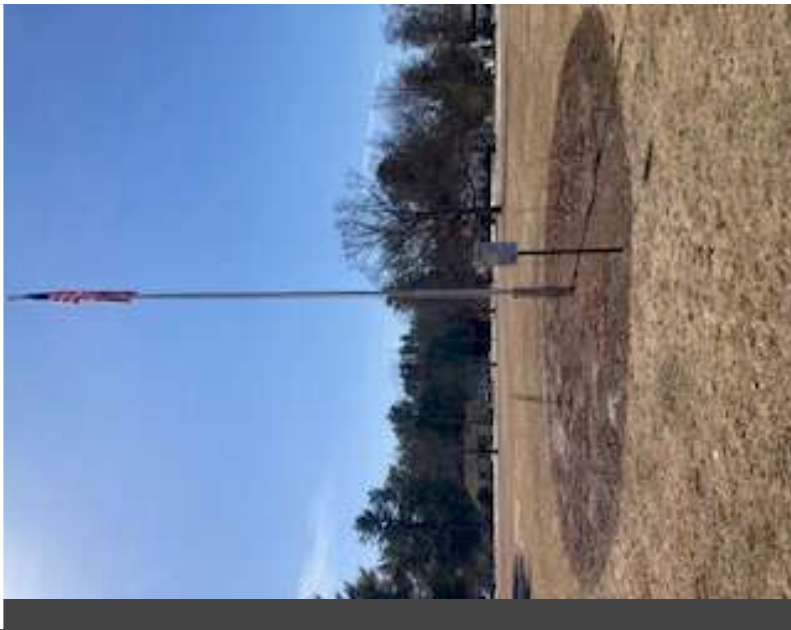
3

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

800

*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)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



## Education & Outreach

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

The big event for Pollinator Conservation each year is the Pollinator Palooza held in late June each year. Ashuelot River Park is occupied by various organizations (Cheshire County Conservation District, Monadnock Beekeepers Association, Assorted Nurseries) to educate the public about pollinator friendly practices and plants.

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

8

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

400

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

1



Pollinator Palooza Park Entrance, John Therriault



Pollinator Palooza Participant Tents, John Therriault

## Policies & Practices

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

The conservation commission routinely asks developers and utility companies, asking for approval for wetland adjacent actions, to not use herbicides or pesticides and to replant disturbed land with a north-east pollinator friendly mix from American Meadows or Prarie Moon nurseries.

*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.*

None other than indicated above.

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

The city and the Cheshire County Conservation District are working to expand pollinator corridors between conservation lands currently under management.

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

No

*Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.*

- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

- 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

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

**When preparing an area for a pollinator garden, a sod cutter is a wonderful tool**

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Committee Photo

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

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