

Bee City USA - Laurel Park

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.

Our committee installed a bee hotel in Canal Park in a pollinator garden we created last year. We created another pollinator garden, planted serviceberry trees, planted wildflower seeds and enlarged a footprint for pollinator plants in Rhododendron Park with the No Mow May Initiative.

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

4

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

8

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

3

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

100

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...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Education & Outreach

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

Our committee participated in No Mow May and placed "Pardon the Weeds, I'm feeding the Bees" signs in parks and other visible sites. Educational information was added to kiosks in our local parks and pollinator educational links were added to Laurel Park's website. We raised awareness in the community with a "Pollinator Week" banner, strung solar bee lights on the gazebo in Laurel Green Park, and proclaimed World Bee Day. Canal Park, Rhododendron Park and Laurel Green Park were added to the Henderson County Pollinator Trail on the Conserving Carolina website. Our committee also participated in the Great SE Pollinator Census and shared with residents on our community Shred Day. Two beekeepers volunteered at the booth with us and shared their knowledge. We also planned pollinator field trips to Bullington Gardens, Milkweed Farms and Flat Rock Playhouse Pollinator Garden Tour.

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

3

How many people attended those events (in total)?

50

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

2



Pollinator-centric field trip at Bullington Gardens taken by Karen F. Monroe



Great SE Pollinator Census with two beekeepers at community Shred Day taken by John K. Monroe



Policies & Practices

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

We have distributed educational materials, shown two pollinator-centric movies, provided educational DVDs for residents to check out and return and had a guest speaker from Spriggly's Beescaping to educate our community.

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.

Yes, we have reached out to the community groundskeeper and requested he not use pesticides in public greenways and gardens.

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

We are still working on our IPM. Our community was hit heavily by Hurricane Helene here in WNC so we have had some interruptions.

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

Yes

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We live in a retirement community and many residents have homes elsewhere. They either aren't here or don't have much interest in our message. We are trying to find a way to reach children and young people either.

Committee Photo



Some of our committee members at Bullington Gardens taken by Lou LaSalle

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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