

# Bee City USA - Lexington

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.*

Lexington Living Landscapes continues to oversee the conversion of a knotweed-dominated area into a native plant meadow, and has also created a demonstration pollinator garden close to the center of town. Volunteers also worked on a restoration project at Arlington's Great Meadow, situated within the Town of Lexington and under the Jurisdiction of the Lexington Conservation Commission, to remove invasive plants and replace with Native Pollinator plants in an open shrub meadow, a streamside, and a wooded area within a 2 acre area.

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

6

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

230

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

3

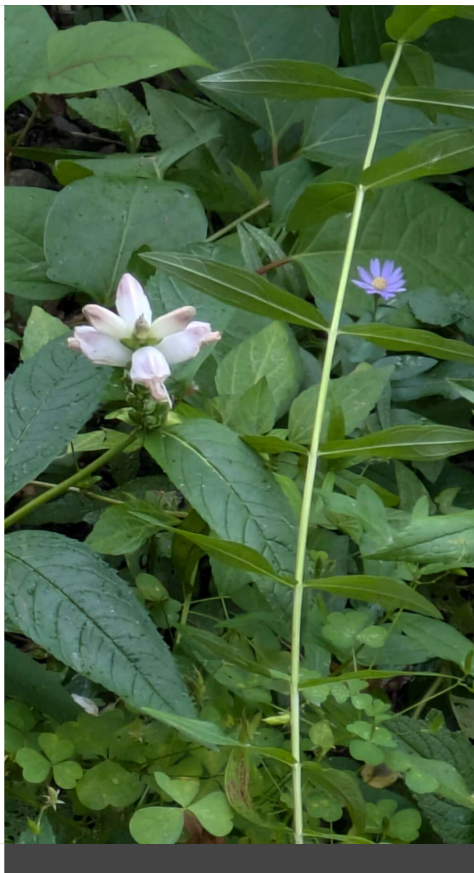
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

98000

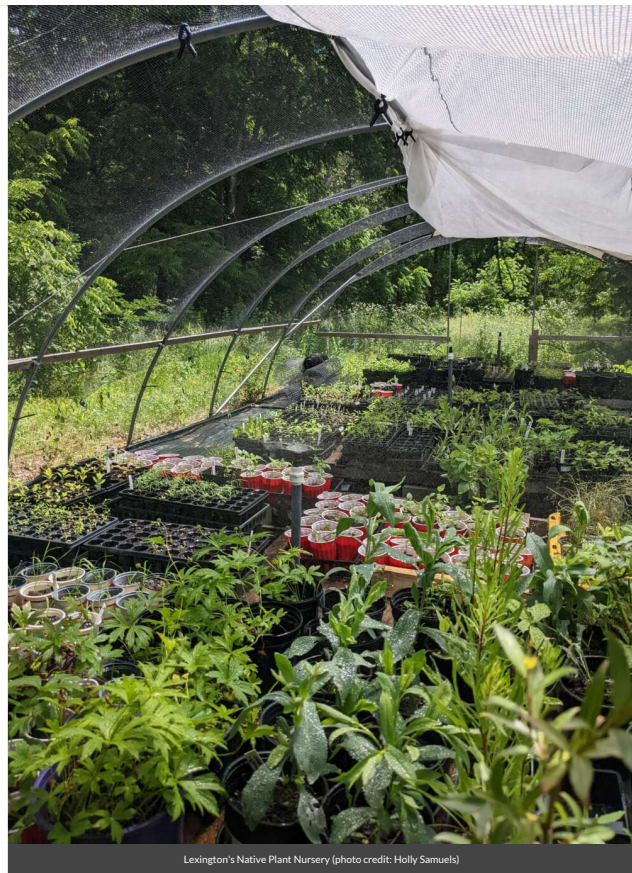
*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



New streamside plantings along Mill Brook (photo credit: Holly Samuels)



Lexington's Native Plant Nursery (photo credit: Holly Samuels)

## Education & Outreach

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

Educational presentations: Lexington Living Landscapes, with support from Cary Memorial Library, offered the following programs online via Zoom during 2024: ☐ Russ Cohen on Nibbling on Native Plants in Your Back Yard and Beyond ☐ Heather Holm on Creating and Enhancing Native Bee Habitat in Your Garden ☐ Aaron Anderson on Mosquito and Tick Control: How to Keep Your Family Safe Without Poisoning Your Yard Citizens for Lexington Conservation hosted more than 20 field walks on Lexington conservation land. The CLC walks are designed to acquaint residents with Lexington's diverse conservation properties and to help educate them about the value of nature and biodiversity. Two sales of native plants were conducted during the year: • Spring native plant sale. At this event 1200 pollinator-

friendly native plants from Bagley Pond Perennials were sold by the Lexington Conservation Division and Lexington Living Landscapes, as well as 50 plants grown in Lexington's Native Plant Nursery. • Fall native plant sale. At the Lexington Farmers' Market Sustainability Day in September, 200 plants grown at the town's Native Plant Nursery were sold. Seed distribution events: Lexington Living Landscapes distributed free native plant seeds from Lexington gardens at street fairs in the spring and fall, and also hosted a free seed collecting day at our native plant meadow. Native Plant Garden Tour: Lexington Living Landscapes hosted an Open Gardens Day in September, featuring 11 native plant gardens in town; approximately 100 individuals participated in the event.

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

10

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

760

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

1





Bee City Sign in Lexington, MA (photo credit: Charlie Wyman)

## Policies & Practices

*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.*

Lexington Town Meeting passed a resolution to encourage adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policies for the Town that in part prohibits the use of certain rodenticides on Town properties, including second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs).

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

At our Town Meeting this spring, members will vote on a proposal to request state authority for the Town to ban or restrict the use of second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs) throughout town.

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.

- Implemented or maintained a written 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)
- 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>)

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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: