

Bee City USA - Manassas

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 City of Manassas increased its pollinator bed space by 7700 square feet using native plant material such as; Butterfly weed, Joe pye weed, swamp milkweed amongst others. The areas increased were located at the City Museum, City Hall, and Annaburg Manor a historic site in the City. We continue to maintain our existing pollinator beds and our "No Mow" meadow areas in the city.

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

5

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

10

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

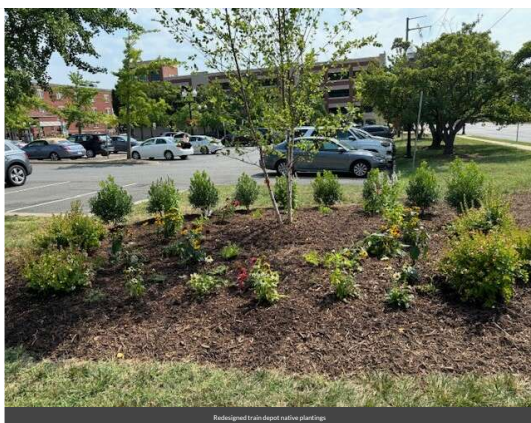
5

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

7700

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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- 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.

The City of Manassas held its fourth Bee City Festival on the grounds of the Liberia house on, June 22, 2024. An estimated 2500 people turned out, spending time learning about our bees and other pollinators. Plans are being made now for this year's festival. The festival consisted of many entertaining and educational activities related to our pollinator friends. There were booths explaining pollinator activities and habitats. There were demonstrations and talks by a local bee keeper who has working bee hives on the site.

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

1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

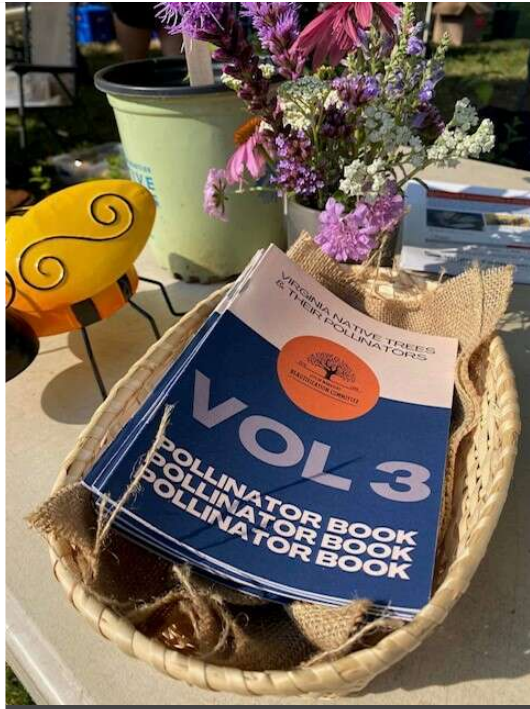
2500

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

3



Committee's event booth distributing educational information



Committee's educational handouts for event



Professional bee keeper demonstration with active onsite hives



Policies & Practices

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

It is the policy of our Grounds departments to follow the IPM principles. As we cover a large area of vast landscapes, we do use some pesticides to control insects, disease and weeds. However, pest threshold levels are checked and pesticides are used only as needed and when there is no other alternative.

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.

Residents are encouraged to reduce pesticide use by availability of educational material provided at our Pollinator festival.

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

No, City of Manassas employee's are licensed by the state of Virginia and are trained yearly in the environmentally safe use of pesticides.

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

The committee encourages IPM practice and safe use pesticide at it's booth for the Bee City Festival.

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**
- **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)**
- **Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds**
- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**



Dean Park No Mow Zone



Reconnecting with Natural Areas: Helping Pollinators



Visiting the parks in the City of Menlo Park means reconnecting with nature. To increase habitat diversity and help pollinators and native plants, we have reduced our mowing to improve your experience with nature.



What may appear to be mowed areas are actually native wildflowers and warm season grass fields or forests beginning to grow, abuzz with pollinators and a diversity of other insects and animals.



Transformed areas now become outdoor classrooms, quiet places to relax, and great photography and research opportunities.



By reducing mowed areas, we are creating colorful wildflower fields, supporting pollinators, controlling soil erosion, creating food and shelter for wildlife, and saving on lawn maintenance time and money.



Be on the look out for the meadow we are where Virginia State Parks are working to create habitat diversity.

Inspired!
Make small changes at home...

- Mow less frequently and let grass get a little taller to decrease water used, wear and tear on lawn mowers, and the amount of greenhouse gases caused by burning fossil fuels.
- Stop mowing along wood lines and flower borders to create a soft edge along the fence to increase habitat for birds and that like to use as fence edges.
- Place pollinator gardens at home with warm wildflowers like goldenrod, black-eyed Susans, and milkweed. This will increase wildlife diversity, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies, moths, songbirds, and other wildlife.
- Create rain gardens, or naturally wet areas with water loving plants like ornamental and low tree wood to absorb water runoff, prevent the pooling of water, and support pollination.



Questions or to report a concern, please contact www.menloparks.org/forest
703-388-1873 | Police non-emergency line: 703-257-8000



Signs designated at local parks for meadows and educational information

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We are constantly trying to improve our pollinator habitats by educating ourselves through the use of multiple sources including the internet, local nurseries, and cooperative extension bulletins.

Committee Photo



Celebrating Arbor Day

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan 02-2023.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Meadow flowers-Va. natives.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Vendors 1-30-23.docx](#)

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