

Bee City USA - Mequon

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.

MNP is 510 acres of land that is converting the agricultural fields back into the historic prairies, wetlands, and forests. Staff and volunteers removed invasive species, planted 21,550 native tree and shrub species, and spread native prairie and wetland seed across the property. A local elementary school came to MNP and planted 2,000 native wetland plant plugs in the newest restoration project area as part of their Team Day. 37 acres of wetlands were restored at MNP in 2024 and native plants were planted in this area. MNP staff and volunteers remove invasive species and collect native wetland and prairie seeds throughout the spring, summer, and fall. These seeds are then used in other restoration areas on the MNP property.

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

10

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

800

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

4

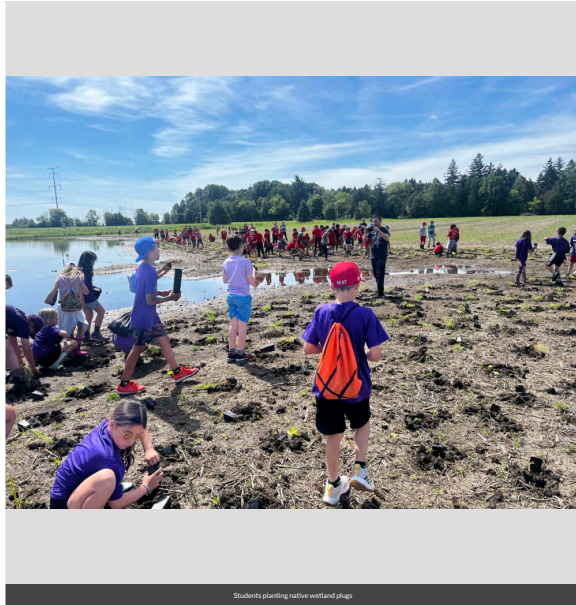
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

4007520

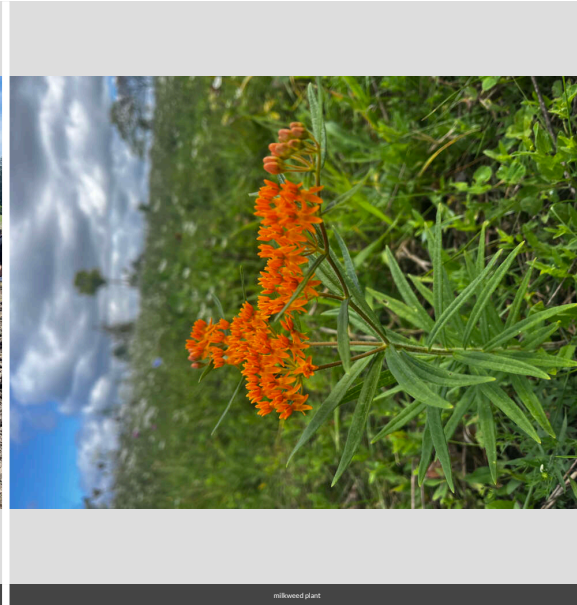
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



Students planting native wetland plants



milkweed plant

Education & Outreach

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

Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) staff hosted a Monarch Tagging event that was free for the community to attend. Attendees learned about the Monarch butterfly and how to help their populations as well as other pollinators. Data collected was uploaded to Monarch Watch. MNP staff also worked with local Girl Scout troops, universities, organizations, and businesses in tagging monarchs during their migration. MNP worked with the Sunrise Rotary Club in Mequon to continue the partnership with the native pollinator garden in one of the local parks. Through this partnership, we encourage residents to sign the Operation Pollination pledge and plant native plants at their homes and businesses. MNP also had educational content about pollinators and native plants through social media posts, workshops, and fliers. A MNP staff member monitors bumblebee populations during the summer months and uploads the data to Bumblebee Brigade.

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

12

How many people attended those events (in total)?

85

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

5



Policies & Practices

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

Invasive species control efforts uses best management practices to ensure proper control without harm to non-target species. Using targeted spot mowing and spot treating with herbicides ensures control of target species and limits revisiting sensitive habitats.

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.

Through Operation Pollination, informational brochures have content on how the public can help pollinators in their yards. These brochures encourage the limiting or eliminating use of pesticides.

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

MNP minimizes the use of pesticides on the property. With all the plantings MNP staff and volunteers plant native plants throughout the property, the plants help filter any sort of pesticide runoff that would end up in the waterways. Broad applications of herbicides are rarely used, unless warranted against noxious weeds.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
The MNP staff holds a variety of licenses for pesticide management. They also attend annual continuing education programs (webinars, conferences, etc).

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- 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>)
- 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>)



Planting native trees and shrubs

Committee Photo



Mequon Nature Preserve staff

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [JN Native Guide .pdf](#)