

Bee City USA - New Milford

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.

Bee City gardens in honor of the four Girl Scouts whose hard work helped to make New Milford a Bee City. We created pollinator-friendly gardens at major intersections around Town, where our Bee City signage has been placed.

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

8

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

28

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

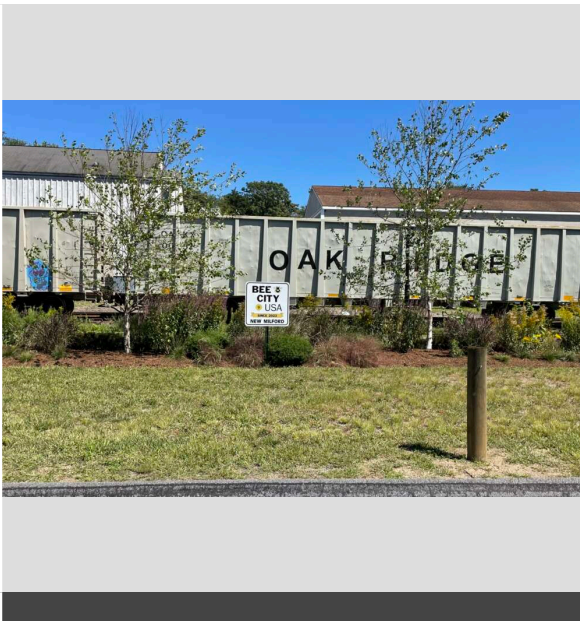
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

9000

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...)
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Our town's Social Services Department getting involved by creating their own pollinator garden. Photo courtesy of Michael Boucher

Our mayor and highway foreman with one of our Silver Award Girl Scouts at the gardens created in their honor. Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Boucher

Education & Outreach

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

Spring 2023: Showing of the film "The Pollinators", with Peter Nelson, Director. May 2024: New Milford G.O.A.T. Days – Booth: handouts: Xerces Northeast Plant list, spoke with visitors about Connecticut's 300+ species of native bees, the importance of native plants, and removing non-native invasives. Many enthusiastic visitors stopped by!

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)?

2500

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

6



Photo of our booth set up at New Milford Goat Days to educate our public. Photo courtesy of Patti Crispo



4 local Girl Scouts helped us obtain our Bee City certification as their Silver Award Project. Here they are addressing the crowd at a showing of the movie, The Pollinators at Bank St Theater. Photo courtesy of Michael Boucher



Some of our educational materials set up at New Milford Goat Days. Photo courtesy of Patti Crispo.



Policies & Practices

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

Our Public Works Department and our public schools do not use pesticides.

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.

We plan on holding informational meetings and sharing beneficial alternatives in the coming years.

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

Our Public Works Department does not use any type of pesticides near waterways, or roadsides.

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

Our liaison, Mike Boucher attended a lecture at CAES (Connecticut Agricultural Experimentation Station) Native Pollinators and their host plants, April 2023 regarding Herbicides: A Double-Edged Sword – what we know about herbicides.



It is our goal to create as many roadside pollinator friendly areas as we can. Photo courtesy of Michael Boucher

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We have learned that you need to do your research on plants to determine if a plant is native and beneficial to your ecoregion.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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