

Bee City USA - Norcross

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.

-City Hall Pollinator Garden (BCC): The City with the Bee City Committee hosted their annual Planting Day Workshop. Residents and guests helped plant and prune the garden. Additionally, Staff has pruned and planted in the garden throughout the year. -Enchanted Forest: Gardens 4 Growing Community's founder and Bee City Member hosted the annual Enchanted Forest Event, where youth make fairy houses out of pumpkins and other natural items. Participants also learn about composting and join Tixie on a Nature Walk. -Norcross Elementary School Garden Clean Up Day: Bee City Member Jacquelyn Morgan led a clean up event at Norcross Elementary where volunteers helped upgrade school garden beds. -Pollinator Census – a pollinator census was conducted by both Norcross Elementary School and Norcross Garden Club -Summerour Middle School Meadow (Gardens 4 Growing Community): BCC member and Gardens 4 Growing Community founder, Tixie Fowler, continues to maintain a native meadow at Summerour Middle School. – Shumard Oak Tree Planting (Norcross Tree Board & City Arborist): At the City's annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree planting, the City planted a Shumard Oak Tree at Pinnacle Park, which was listed as the first Arboretum in Gwinnett County. -A hedgerow of Caryopteris, a pollinator magnet, was planted along the Lawrenceville St fence line of Discovery Garden by staff Pollinator Garden Workshop Demo Container Garden: UGA Master Gardener, Jim Saleh, led our Container Gardening Workshop and shared with attendees best practices with container gardening with a powerpoint presentation as well as a hands on demonstration of potting each plant; workshop a demonstration planter was on display for inspiration for City Staff.

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

15

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

20

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

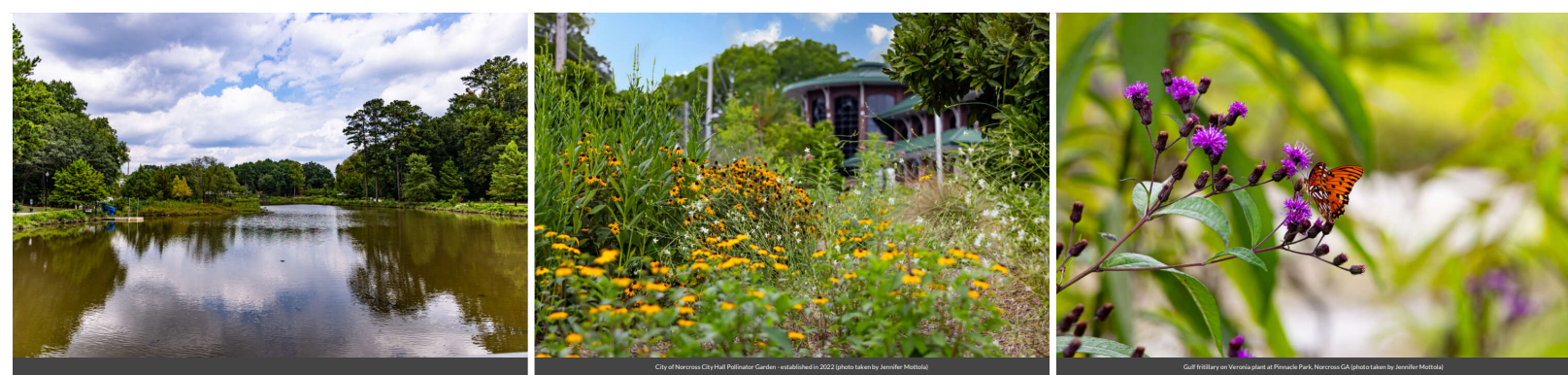
4

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

6750

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other



Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, the City of Norcross supported and hosted a variety of pollinator conservation and education event in partnership with City commissions, local schools, churches, and organizations, including our “Planting for Pollinators” Workshops which included a planting day at our City Hall Pollinator Garden as well as a Container Gardening Workshop. Additionally, Norcross’s Tree Preservation Board and City Arborist planted a Shumard Oak Tree for the

City's annual Planting Tree Board's Arbor Day. Our partners included: Bee City Committee (BCC) Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC), Norcross Garden Club (NGC), Norcross Elementary School (NES), Discovery Garden Park Board (DGP), Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission (PG&T), Norcross Tree Preservation Board, Norcross Elementary school Garden Group, Victory World Church Gardening Group, Norcross Elementary Garden Club, UGA Extension, and community volunteers. Below is a list of special, annual, and ongoing events facilitated by the City and community partners in 2024. Pollinator Workshop #1: Planning Your Garden with Pollinators in Mind Pollinator Workshop #2: What to Plant Pollinator Workshop #3: Container Gardening for Pollinators Pollinator Workshop #4: Planting Day Pollinator Workshop #5: Fall Planning for Pollinators Enchanted Forest Event Norcross city Staff Container Gardening Workshop Norcross Elementary School Garden Clean Up Day Arbor Day (in Partnership with the Norcross Tree Preservation board)

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

70

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

3





Policies & Practices

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

The City in Norcross continues to abide by the Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM) to "maintain healthy attractive plants, maximize resistance to pests, and out-compete weeds." The City achieves this goal through monitoring of landscape areas to identify problematic plants, or plants susceptible to disease, and pests before they become a larger, more challenging issue. The Bee City Committee and staff liaison continue to research and learn more about sustainable landscaping practices as well as intentionally communicate and collaborate with staff members such as City's Arborist and the City's Landscape Beautification Manager to stay up to date on the IPM programs and ensure the policy adopted by the City of Norcross meets the standard held by Bee City USA.

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.

The BCC facilitates community conversation about pollinator friendly pest management including reducing the use of pesticides in residential and business areas, on social media, through public signage, handouts, verbal communication with residents, and workshops.

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

The City's Integrated Pest Management is the primary guide used to ensure that all pest and weed control methods utilized in City landscaping "have minimal negative affects on all but the pest and that protect air and water quality." The City incorporates these values and guidelines and into other City policies regarding new development and redevelopment projects. For example, the City offers a 25% building density bonus for developments which include native plantings, rain gardens, bio-swales, and other sustainable design elements and green building materials. Additionally, the City's official Architectural and Site Design promote native plantings for development projects.

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
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

- 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>)

EXCERPTED FROM: CITY OF NORCROSS LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION

2.1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

A. Goals

1. An integrated pest management program shall be implemented to:
 - Maintain healthy, attractive plants, maximize resistance to pests and out-compete weeds
 - Monitor for presence of pests and to evaluate pest impact on plant health and appearance and nuisance to the public
 - Provide control treatments that have minimal negative effects on all but the pest and that protect air and water quality
2. Contractor shall assume pesticides are potentially hazardous to human and environmental health. Preference shall be given to reasonably available non-pesticide alternatives when considering the use of pesticides on City property.

B. Insects and diseases

1. Target plants and pests

The Contractor shall identify the problematic plant species and cultivars in the landscape (target plants) and the pests that commonly cause significant harm to these plants (target pests).

2. Monitoring

The Contractor shall monitor landscape areas to identify presence of beneficial insects and pests, determine populations, life stage, and degree of damage to plants. Target plants and pests will be monitored closely during normal periods of pest activity. This information will be the basis on which pest control methods are initiated. Records of monitoring activity shall be kept.

3. Controls

Norcross Landscape Maintenance seeks to control pests without harming non-target organisms, or negatively affecting air and water quality and public health. It relies on IPM which uses a range of cultural, mechanical, physical, and biological control methods **before using pesticides**. Chemical controls are applied only when monitoring indicates that preventative and non-chemical methods are not keeping pests below acceptable levels. When pesticides are required, the least toxic and the least persistent pesticide that will provide adequate pest control is applied.

Pesticides are not to be applied on a prescheduled basis.

a. Cultural/mechanical/physical methods

A number of maintenance practices or modifications of them can make the environment unfavorable for pest reproduction, movement, or survival. Often simply modifying an existing maintenance practice, such as timing of pruning or fertilization, can produce positive results. Other mechanical or physical practices may specifically combat plant pests or increase host resistance. Key treatments include:

- Fostering a healthy soil, judicious fertilization only when needed, and managing irrigation appropriately
- Pruning to remove infected or infested branches and shoots; time pruning to avoid periods of insect infestation, for example prune pines in the winter (December-February) when bark beetles and borers are inactive
- Removing fallen twigs, leaves, and fruit that contains disease inoculum
- Mulching soil surface to reduce weeds and to reduce splashing and the drops of mud that would protect spores deposited on plant surfaces
- Trapping insects using sticky surfaces (also used for monitoring); using mechanical traps to control rodents
- Bringing to attention of Representative 'target plants' that are disease or insect prone and suggesting resistant plant replacements or those better suited to the site and microclimate

Multilingual signage at Pinnacle Park describing sustainable landscape practices that support pollinators.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Partnerships, Communication and Collaboration is vital. This year we were able to apply lessons learned in 2023 and coordinate with local community groups (ie Norcross Garden Club) to partner on events which helped increased consistency in our event participation with more of a network of attendees and volunteers.

Committee Photo



Bee City Committee Members with Planting Day volunteers (photo taken by Jalia Killings)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [EXCERPTED FROM NORCROSS MTCE SPEC.pdf](#)

<https://www.norcrossga.net/DocumentCenter/View/4507/EXCERPTED-FROM-NORCROSS-MTCE-SPEC>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

<https://www.norcrossga.net/2005/10418/Pollinators-Bee-City-USA>
sustainable@norcrossga.net

<https://www.facebook.com/PollinateNorcross>