

Bee City USA - Pinellas County

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.

Pinellas County Parks continues to maintain certain areas of its properties as “no-mow” parcels. This includes approximately 136 acres of herbaceous cover that is not maintained as turf. These areas are mown twice a year, thus providing habitat that would otherwise not be available.

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

4

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

100

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

4

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

6000000

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

- **Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species**
- **Meadow**
- **Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement**
- **Rain garden/bioswale**



Education & Outreach

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

22 classes were taught in 2024 by BCUSA staff and volunteers on a variety of pollinator topics. Some of the titles of these classes include: “Plants and Practices that Pamper Pollinators,” “Native Bees and Me!,” and “Pinellas’ Native Bees.” In addition to these classes, we hosted several activities that focused on pollinator education such as the very popular “Moth Night” and two Bio-Blitz activities that collected data about pollinator species presence and density in one of our large county parks. In October 2023, during our first year as BCUSA members, we hosted a Wildflower and

Pollinator Festival which attracted nearly 2000 participants who enjoyed a fun, educational celebration of native pollinators.

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

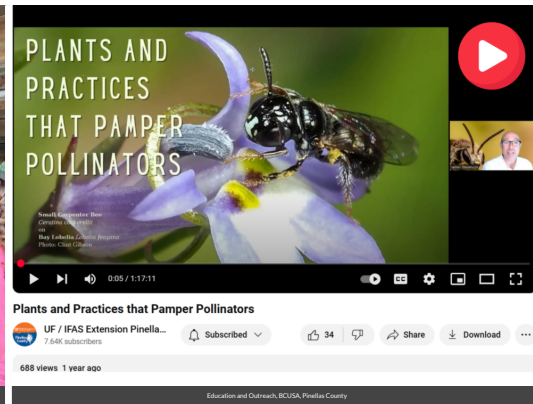
22

How many people attended those events (in total)?

751

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

10





Two BCUSA, Pinellas road signs at the entry to Pinellas County from Tampa to the east (l) and from the north (r). (J. Stevenson)

Policies & Practices

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

Parks and Conservation Resources staff are instructed to use the least harmful/most effective methods and products to maintain the health of our parks' ecosystems.

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.

Pinellas County Extension Services continues to instruct the local commercial horticulture industry on best-management practices to facilitate licensing and continuing education for those entities. This instruction includes low-impact pest and vegetation control for environmental protection.

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

The Integrated Vegetation Management curriculum developed by UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas provides training and guidelines for local municipalities and the unincorporated areas of Pinellas Country to enact policies and practices that

meet the needs of the commercial horticulture industry whilst keeping the natural environment free from harm.

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

The Integrated Vegetation Management curriculum developed by UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas is a comprehensive set of guidelines created expressly for the education of the commercial horticulture industry in Pinellas and for the benefit of our county's municipalities so their staff can implement these guidelines in those communities.

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



Integrated Vegetation Management

Following

Contact

15

Followers

14

Total events

The IVM Program consists of an orientation and overview, as well as a number of State required CEU courses for pesticide applicators. To provide the greatest customer convenience we have provided registration links for all courses that count towards IVM Program below.

Additional CEU classes required for IVM program:

3/11 CEUs2U 2021 Online Opportunity - The four-hour course provides 2-CEUs in CORE (482/487) and 2-CEUs in Category for the Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LCLM) and Limited Landscape and Ornamental (LLO) FDACS licenses.

3/17 CEU Variety Pack - The seven-hour course provides 2-CEUs in CORE (482-487) and five of CEUs in Category for either ROW, Aquatics, Forest, Natural Areas.

4/10,17,24 Advanced Plant Identification - 3 part series - This three-part advanced plant identification series will introduce participants to these concepts and the associated

Policies and Practices: IVM training for commercial horticulture and local governments

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Habitat creation on a large-scale, like we are interested in for Pinellas county is a delicate process that will take several growing seasons to bring to fruition.

Committee Photo



Two members of the BCUSA, Pinellas County Committee, Bryan Beckman (l) and Miles Croom (r) receiving the National Parks Proclamation in 2023. (PCC)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/osceola/documents/agriculture/Pollinator-Plants-for-Osceola-County-Urban-Landscapes.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/3>

<https://pinellas.gov/pinellas-county-bee-city-usa/jstevenson@pinellas.gov>

https://www.instagram.com/pinellas_pollinators

