

# Bee City USA - Ridgewood

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.*

Some of the events hosted by various members of our committee included, planting at our butterfly and sensory garden, adopt a sampling, and park clean ups in our natural meadows and nature areas.

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

12

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

50

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

2

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

1500

*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
- 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
- School garden



Bee on Dandelion to show the benefits of a natural lawn for pollinators (S. Mortimer)

## Education & Outreach

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

Ridgewood held multiple pollinator events in 2024. First, at our annual Earth Day fair, we spoke to hundreds of residents about the importance of pollinators and what they can do to help. Additionally, we sponsored "Slow Mow May" with the goal of getting residents to mow less often, use less pesticides, and just let bees be. We also host "Park Walks" where we offer tours of our parks to residents so they can see up close all the wonderful, all natural areas we have in our Village. Our shade tree committee sponsored "adopt a sampling" which provided free samplings for residents. Last, we hosted four elementary school talks on bees and pollinators.

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

5

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

1250

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

4



**BEE**   
**CITY**  
 **USA**®

**Since 2017**



**VILLAGE OF  
RIDGEWOOD**

Ridgewood Bee City USA (Bob Jenkins)

## Policies & Practices

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

**We strictly follow our IPM polices and leave many areas untouched, wildscapes.**

*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 our Slow Mow May campaign we educated fellow villagers on the benefits of reducing pesticide use. Our goal is to get more residents to see the beauty in a natural chemical-free yard.**

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

**As mentioned above, educating our residents on the positives of going pesticide free is a big part of our mission. We are always looking to educate through our 1000 Acres campaign and our Green Ridgewood initiatives.**

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

**Please see above. We focus on educating residents.**

*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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

**Communication is key. Our Green Ridgewood team sends out newsletters to residents, via our town's e-communications. This helps residents know what we are doing and what they can do. Regular Communication is key!**

## Committee Photo



Green Ridgewood (George Johnson)

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[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)

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