

Bee City USA - River Falls

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.

The Prairie enthusiasts did invasive species removal in specific areas around the Kinnickinnic River to help native plants for pollinators. Our Committee did not host that event.

Education & Outreach

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

Earth Fest – Bee City Committee hosted our first educational event of the year at Earth Fest and promoted what we are doing at our table there and promoted our future educational outreach events. Native Plants and More for Pollinators. This was our 2nd educational event we hosted with one of our committee members as our speaker. She is a local Bee Keeper named Melanie Waldon at the River Falls Public Library. Melanie gave an educational class on Native Plants that were good for Bees, a rotation of plants that work well with them and explained the serious problems bees are facing and what we can do to help them. Melanie took questions at the end of the class. Save the Bees! Bee City Story Book Walk. A partnership of the River Falls Bee City Committee, the River Falls public Library, and Grow to Share. The Bee City Committee hosted the Event with Grow to Share, and the River Falls Public Library it was a collaboration. We invited the community to a Story Walk adventure at the Community Garden in Hoffman Park set up for kids and families. The Library staff took families through the Story walk, reading the Bee book and walked people through the activities where children got to learn about bees and participate in a book that got them involved with interactive learning through story telling. Grow to Share gardeners shared information during each segment of the book and shared produce from the community garden with everyone there. We made art promoting making your own flying bee at the end of the event.

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

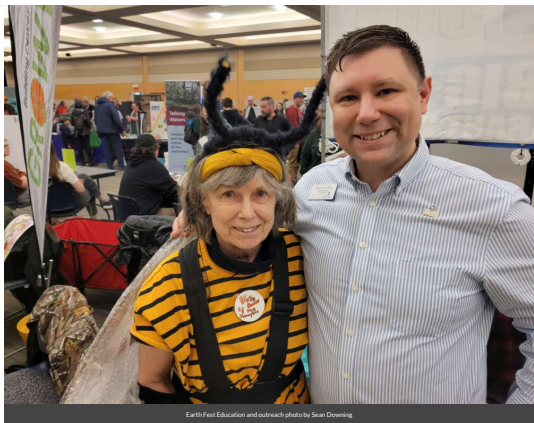
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How many people attended those events (in total)?

2561

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

1



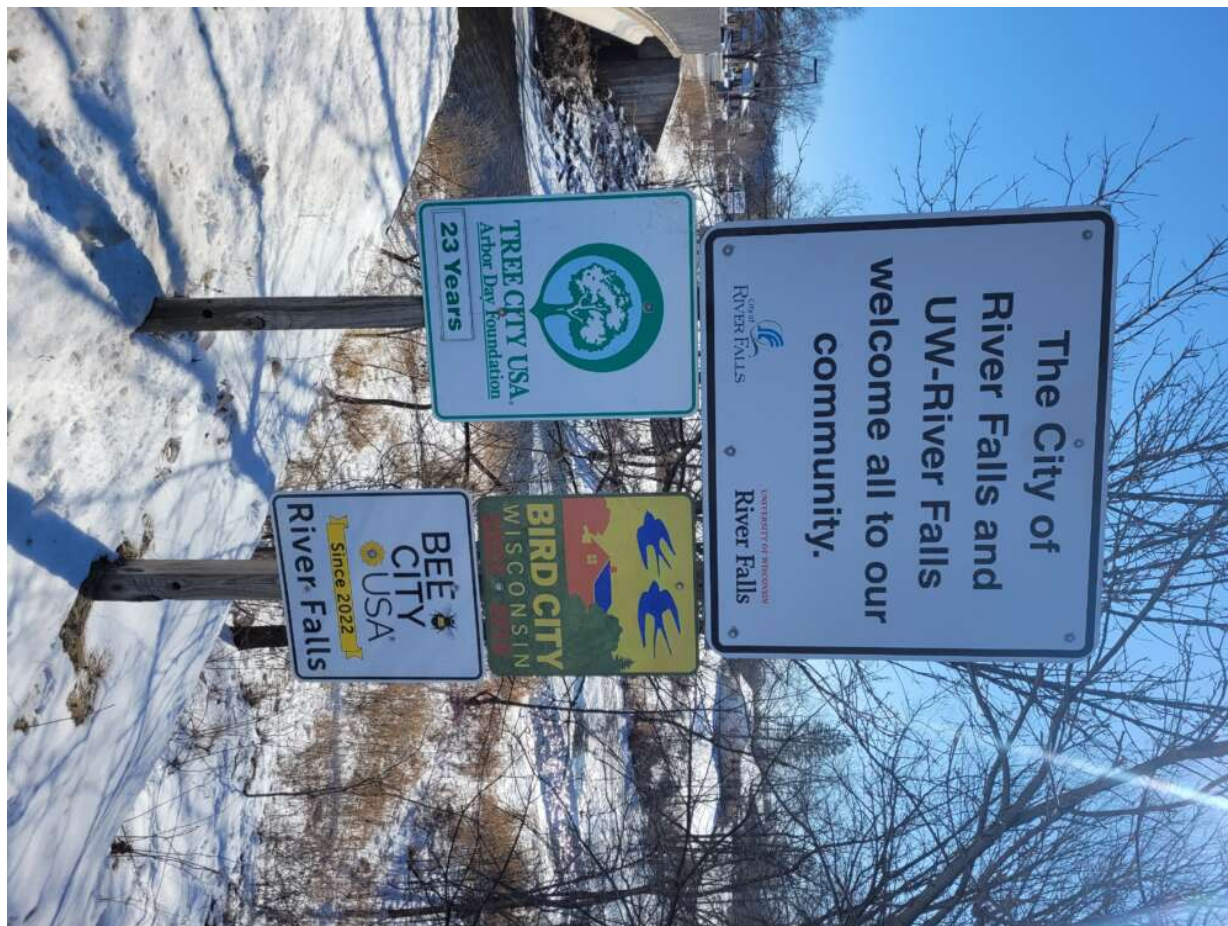
Earth Fest Education and outreach photo by Sean Downing



Native Plants and More for Pollinators educational outreach class photo by Sean Downing



Save the Bees Story Walk photo by Sean Downing



Bee Sign Photo by Sean Downing

Policies & Practices

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

We made DeSanctis Park the official River Falls Bee City Park in doing so in our resolution focused on testing bee Friendly practices and identifying ones that will be used in other areas of our city the future. Part of that is reducing pesticides so they are only to be used for invasive species and site planning. So very limited use there.

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.

No

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

Yes we are working towards an IPM that reduces pesticides.

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

No not directly.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- **Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan**

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Partnerships are a great way to improve educational programming and do bigger events.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-great-lakes>

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

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