

# Bee City USA - Southport

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.*

Our committee hosted an informational garden party for the community on April 5th to provide information about the garden and give away native plant samples. This event was covered by the local paper. Additionally, volunteers participated in Southport's Naturefest on April 27th, sharing information about pollinators, answering questions and giving away more plants. As a result of these events, we gained two new dedicated volunteers. Finally, we have one volunteer working on creating plant identification signs that will help educate visitors to the garden throughout the year. More signs will be placed in 2025 once our planting efforts are visible! Although we were not able to host more outreach activities as a committee, volunteers were active in their neighborhoods (educating and donating plants) and two members started a memorial garden at a local assisted living facility to enhance pollinator habitat. Additionally, there was increased distribution of brochures regarding the garden and Bee City throughout the year. More targeted activities are being planned for 2025.

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

2

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

7

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

1

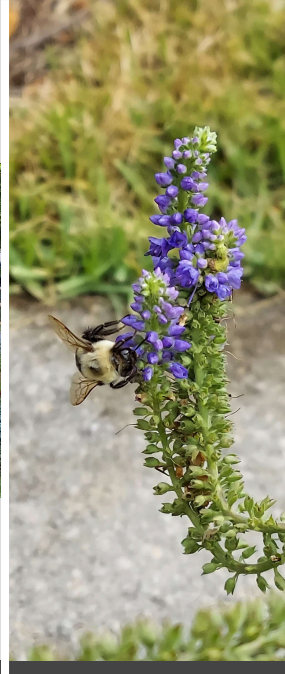
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

1850

*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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)

- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



## Education & Outreach

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

2024 was a year of learning and transition for the Southport pollinator garden volunteers. February and March were spent catching up on weeding, pruning, mulching and transplanting of donated native plants to enhance the garden before our April 5th “garden party” (see below). Workdays continued through the year and watering schedules implemented, as there is no automatic irrigation in the garden. Soil samples were gathered and submitted to the local extension office; we used limited organic soil enhancements later in the year to start addressing the deficiencies. To try to enhance the garden by increasing diversity, approximately 15 new types of native plants were planted in 2024. These were attained from a local nursery or donated by volunteers. Many of these were caged to prevent them being eaten by deer/rabbit. We also moved plants to potentially improve their performance for next season. Additionally, we sought donations to supplement our small budget, which resulted in donated mulch and lumber to set up a simple trellis structure for native vining plants. A journal captures details of these activities to serve as a reference for future efforts.

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

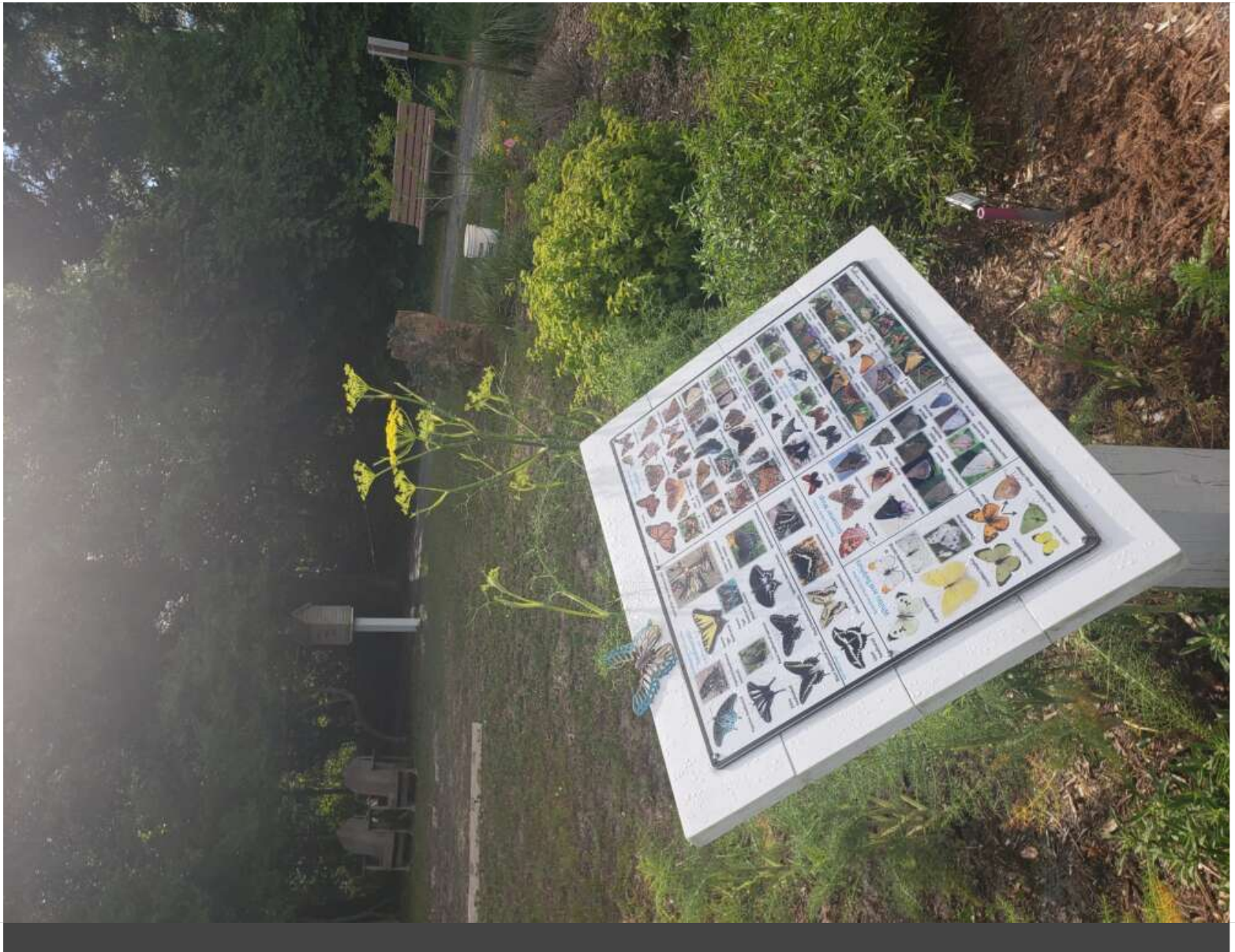
2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

30

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

1





## Policies & Practices

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

The City of Southport maintains a list of the city's beekeepers, SPT Native Plant Pollinator Garden, and private citizens that maintain their own pollinator friendly gardens. At the citizen's request the city will not spray in those areas.

*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 outreach in this area in 2024.**

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

**Unknown**

*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
- 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 that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Dedicated volunteers are vital to keeping a native plant pollinator garden going! Volunteers appreciate how much this has meant to the Southport community.

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Committee Photo

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan.pdf](#)  
<https://cityofsouthport.com/public-services-department/#mosquito-control>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Untitled document-2.pdf](#)  
<https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [native plant list.pdf](#)  
<http://sheltonherbfarm.com>

<https://cityofsouthport.com/beautification-committee/>  
[lbfried430@gmail.com](mailto:lbfried430@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/107281463957969/posts/the-southport-beautification-committee-had-a-great-turnout-for-the-this-is-our-t/206743867345061>