

# Bee City USA - Tyler

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.*

In 2024, we made significant strides in pollinator habitat creation and enhancement by relocating our observation hive from the Rose Garden to the Goodman LeGrand Museum, where we installed a pollinator flower bed near the hive. In addition, we created bee baths around the grounds and planted fruit trees to further support the pollinators. The decision to move the bees to this location was based on the reduced pesticide use on the grounds, making it an ideal spot for them to thrive. With the support of the museum supervisor, the Master Gardeners Club, committee members, and parks staff, we successfully created a safe and nurturing environment for our bees.

*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?*

75

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

1

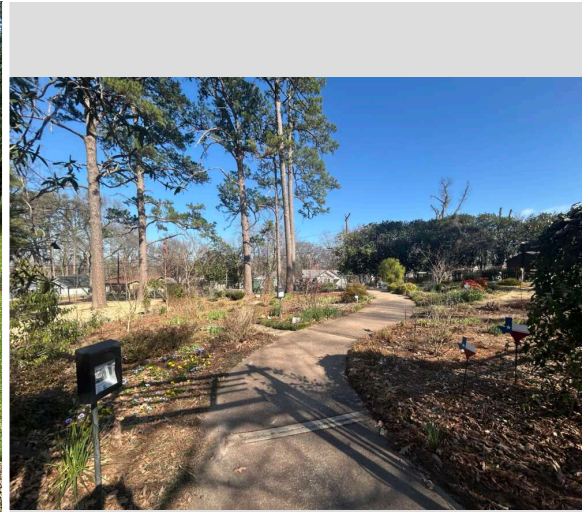
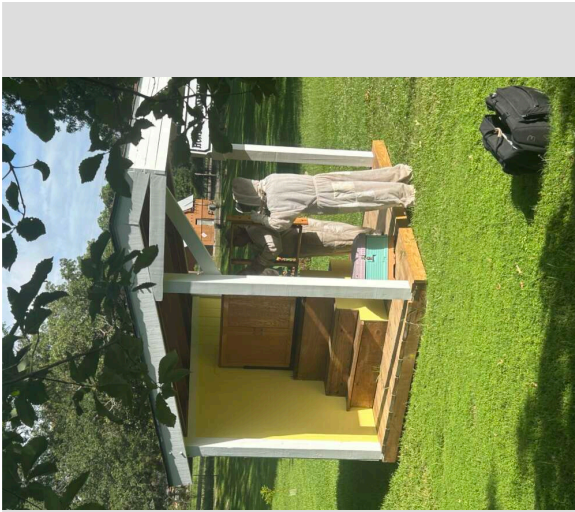
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

12000

*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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- 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
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Our recently relocated Observation Hive is it's new location at the Goodman Museum photo by Casey Williams, KTYB Coordinator

Our Idea garden that is maintained by Smith County Master Gardeners. Photo credit Casey Williams, KTYB Coordinator

## 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, our community hosted several successful pollinator conservation events and outreach activities. We celebrated the annual Bee Day in the Garden, held at the new location of the Goodman LeGrand Museum. This event featured the relocation of the observatory hive to the museum grounds, emphasizing the importance of planting native, pollinator-friendly plants. It provided an excellent opportunity to educate the community about bees' vital role in our ecosystem. The event included workshops by local beekeepers and introduced a new partnership with the Texas A&M Honey Bee Extension Specialist, enhancing the educational value. Additionally, we held a Trivia Night at a local brewery, which gained popularity in its second year. It attracted more attendees and engaged them with fun, educational questions about bees and pollinators. To further spread awareness, we created videos and shared fun facts on social media, reaching an even larger audience and encouraging community members to take action in supporting pollinators. These efforts helped raise awareness and foster a deeper appreciation for pollinator conservation in our area. Committee members, Keep Tyler Beautiful board members, Youth Advisory Committee members, and Parks and Recreation Department staff were all actively involved.

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)?

400

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

1



Vendor circle at our Bee Day in the Garden event. We included landscaping companies, local beekeepers, and anything handmade that supports pollinators. Photo by Casey Williams, KTyB Coordinator



We recently had to relocate our sign, but it should be placed next week near the Goodman Legrand Museum.

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## Policies & Practices

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

We took several actions to make pest management more pollinator-friendly. A written Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan was maintained, focusing on avoiding pesticide use in public areas that contain designated pollinator habitats or other sensitive features, except when a targeted pesticide application is necessary for managing invasive or noxious species. Neonicotinoid insecticides were eliminated on city or campus grounds to protect pollinators. Educational materials were distributed to residents and students to promote reducing or eliminating pesticide use. Additionally, plants for city or campus grounds were sourced using the "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by the Xerces Society, ensuring that the plants chosen are safe for pollinators like bees.

*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.*

Yes, KTyB is actively working on connecting with local landscapers and educating the public to encourage a reduction in pesticide use. We are also promoting the benefits of native plant yards as an alternative to pesticide-heavy landscaping, helping create a more sustainable and pollinator-friendly environment in residential and business areas.

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

Yes, we are committed to continuously reviewing our pesticide practices and exploring ways to increase the use of pollinator-friendly pest control methods. We also aim to designate wildflowers and native areas as pesticide-free zones to protect pollinators, people, and waterways further.

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

Our committee has been involved in discussions and activities related to ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning, and we are looking into more ways to incorporate educational information into our program. We also plan to hold meetings to expand our knowledge and practices.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

One important lesson I've learned is that the saying "it takes a village" is crucial to maintaining an observation hive. It requires teamwork, support, and collaboration from various individuals to ensure the hive is adequately cared for and thrives. Whether through regular maintenance, education, or community involvement, having a strong network of people is key to success.

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## Committee Photo

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [City of Tyler IPM.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

[https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX\\_east](https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_east)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.breedlovelandscape.com/%20>

<https://www.cityoftyler.org/government/departments/parks-rec/community/keep-tyler-beautiful/tyler-bee-city-usa-test>  
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