Bee City USA - Vandalia

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.

We received a $1,000 grant, which was used to plant flowering trees and perennials at our Sports Complex. Park Staff and volunteers installed purple cone flowers, Hawthorns, and Serviceberrys. Park Staff directed CampREC participants in planting an additional area of our wildflower plot at the northeast side of the Recreation Center. Midwest wildflower blend was used this year. Seed was also placed in our Art Park Wildflower meadow. We also removed year old honeysuckle and pear trees from this area. New signs were added at our parks, and we installed a variety of pollinator friendly plants, including two sedum varieties and daylilies. Our Recreation Center landscape was enhanced with new plant materials providing habitat and nectar for our pollinators. Plant materials included Ninebark, Juniper, Variegated Liriope, two varieties of Sedum, and Spiraea.

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

21

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

40

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

21

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

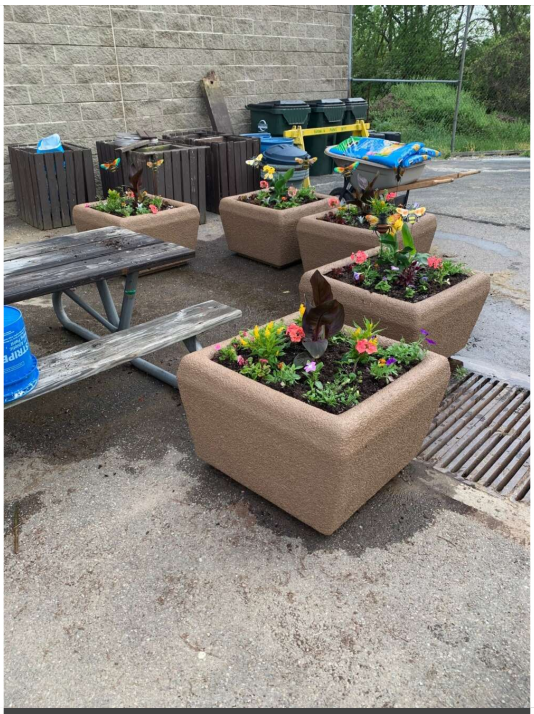
3825

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- 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

Wildflower area at the Recreation Center. (Photo Credit Rudy Wells)



Pollinator planters that were placed around the City (Photo Credit Rudy Wells)

Education & Outreach

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

2024 Bee City USA Activities -March 12 Joint Montgomery County Historical Societies -June 5-August 28 Summerfest every Wednesday -April 7-October 20 Historical Society Open Houses, First and Third Sundays -September 6-7 Oktoberfest a few 100 in attendance *We had pollinator seed packets and Vandalia Bee City USA brochures available at all the above events. *We continue to add pollinator-friendly plantings at the Society.

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

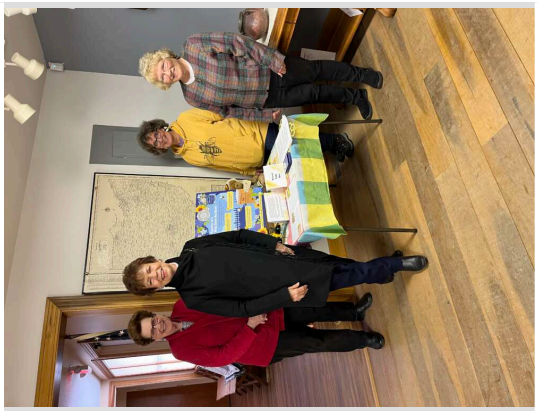
28

How many people attended those events (in total)?

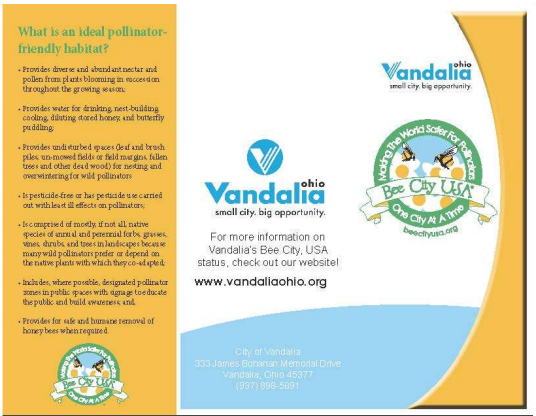
750

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

2



Bee Committee at Historical Society Open House. (Photo Credit Al Tuttle)



Bee City USA Brochure Page 1 (Photo Credit Al Tuttle)

Bee City USA Brochure Page 2 (Photo Credit Al Tuttle)

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Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.
As in years past, we continue to minimize the use of chemicals for pest control. An example this year, was our physical removal of scale on several of our magnolias.

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.
Not at this time.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Not at this time.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
Not this year.

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
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds

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IPM Scale Removal (Photo Credit Rudy Wells)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Not at this time.

Committee Photo

Committee (Photo Credit Rudy Wells)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: Integrated Pest Management Strategy.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List: Native Plant List & Supplier.docx

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Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: Native Plant List & Supplier.docx