

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

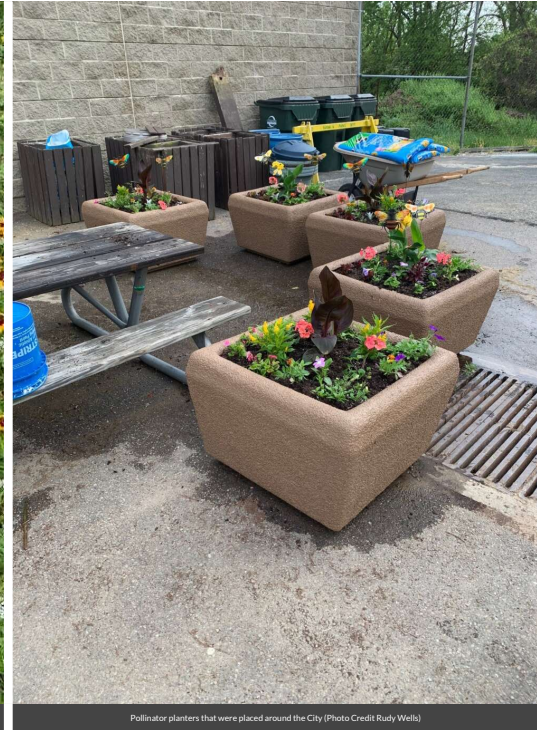
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- 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)

What is an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat?

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season.
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and honey puddling.
- Provides undisturbed spaces of soil and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering of wild pollinators.
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticides scarcered out with least ill effects on pollinators.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of grasses and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscape because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness and.
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.

For more information on Vandalia's Bee City, USA status, check out our website!

www.vandaliaohio.org

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

The benefits of Bee City, USA

- **Ensures survival of vital animal species**
Help to ensure the survival of vital animal species crucial to our planet's complex food web.
- **Improve local food production**
Raise community awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through expanded pollination.
- **Stimulate local plant nursery market**
Improve local plant nursery markets by increasing demand for native, pollinator-friendly plants.
- **Engage community in removing invasive**
Mobilize community to remove non-native invasive plants to make way for locally native plants.
- **Address pest problems rationally**
Raise community awareness of the least toxic ways to deal with home and garden pest problems.
- **Heighten awareness of seasonal change**
Raise community awareness of the local environment's seasonality as understanding grows about pollinators' reliance on blooming plants and trees.
- **Foster small business opportunities**
Support growth of niche businesses - pollinator-friendly landscaping, beekeeping suppliers, chemical-free lawn care, native seed suppliers.

Why Vandalia "BEE-lieves" in Bee City, USA

One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination. Equally important, 90 percent of all wild plants and trees rely on pollinators for the survival of their species.

Not surprisingly, in 2007 when honey bee colonies started disappearing, later dubbed "Colony Collapse Disorder," beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike became very concerned. While less is known about native bees and other pollinators, we do know that entire species are disappearing at alarming rates as they battle most of the same enemies as honey bees—loss of habitat, essential for food and shelter, diseases and parasites, and inappropriate pesticide use.

U.S. honey bee populations (introduced to North America by colonists in the 1600s) are declining at a stunning annual rate of 4.4 percent or more. Honey bees may be best known and appreciated because we enjoy the honey and eat the products. But thousands of other native bee species—bumble, mining, mason, sweat, alkali, orchard, carver, leafcutter, carpenter, long-horned, squash, sunflower, digger, etc.—may also be declining at alarming rates, and in some cases, going extinct.

Bee City USA fosters ongoing dialogue in other areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our communities and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat.

The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.

Did you know?

Many crops rely on pollinators, including:

Almonds	Apples	Avocados
Beans	Blueberries	Broccoli
Cabbage	Carrots	Cashews
Cauliflower	Gallies	Cucumbers
Coffee	Cotton	Eggplant
Grapes	Mangoes	Onions
Oranges	Peaches	Pears
Peppers	Potatoes	Sesame
Strawberries	Sunflowers	Tomatoes

Just to name a few!

Pollinator-friendly plants

Plants that are native to a geographic area make the best pollinator-friendly plants. In southwest Ohio, plants that attract bees and other pollinators include:

Black Cohosh	Yellow Trout Lily
Daisy Fleabane	Flax, Gentian
Foamflower	Shrubs in the
Aurumod	Chestnut
Virginia Creeper	Trumpet Creeper
Summer Grape	Goldensrod

For a complete list, www.pollinator.org

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



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



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](#)

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