

Bee City USA - Wichita

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.

All of our habitat creation and enchantment projects were spear-headed by the Bee City Wichita committee except Boeing's Bee Lawn project at the former Emery Landfill. Other project sites include: Monarch Waystation revitalization at Pawnee Prairie Park, Riverside Community Garden, Kansas Wildlife Exhibit, Earhart Environmental Magnet, and multiple pollinator bed improvements at the Mid-America All-Indian Museum. Our habitat creation projects so far have been focused around native plant pollinator gardens. Habitat restoration has been a mix of updating pollinator gardens and invasive species removal around gardens and in local city parks.

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

8

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

80

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

8

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

31255

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
- 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

- School garden



American Bumblebee (listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List) visiting beardtongue at Pawnee Prairie Park garden. Photo: Seth Macy



Volunteers finish installing fence around new pollinator garden at Kansas Wildlife Exhibit. In background: a wedding party photo shoot in this highly treasured park and volunteers picking out plants to take home. Photo: Nicole Brown

Education & Outreach

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

Our outreach activities included bug-netting in restored prairies and school campuses, meetings with teachers interested in building pollinator gardens, and presentations to the Wichita community over topics such as pollinator conservation or creating pollinator habitat. The committee also led nature hikes in nearby prairies to encourage teens and adults to get into nature more. These hikes included monarch tagging, bug-netting, plant identification, and seed collecting from native plants. Larger scale events were a mixture of partner hosted such as Kansas Wetlands Education Center's Butterfly Festival or Botanica's Pollinator Week and Bee City Wichita's own ICT Bee Fest. In 2023 ICT Bee Fest had 530 attendees and that grew to 750 in 2024 making it the largest pollinator event in Kansas. This free event includes bug-netting, a pop-up butterfly house, a bumblebee petting zoo, local native plant vendors, and many educational booths exploring insect senses, creating pollinator gardens, healthy soil, and much more. This event is entirely planned and implemented by the Bee City Wichita committee and volunteers.

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

52

How many people attended those events (in total)?

10209

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.

Our committee has acquired and reviewed the current City of Wichita Integrated Pest Management Plan in depth. Many restrictions already exist to attempt to minimize pollinator disturbance and the committee has identified areas in need of improvement which are planned to be proposed to the City's Park and Recreation department in the coming year.

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.

At our outreach events we make an effort to educate the public on alternatives to pesticides and the dangers of using them to pollinators. We encourage the community to avoid any pesticide use and instead encourage natural predators or companion planting options for pest reduction.

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

No other policies are currently in progress though we are looking to expand the weed ordinance to more explicitly protect native garden plantings and provide education on their importance.

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

Hosting continuing education for IPM planning/implementation has been discussed but has not been pursued yet.

Individually, members of the committee have undertaken their own training to help with educational outreach goals.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written 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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CoW IPM Signed +notes.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.grasslandgroupies.org/bee-city-wichita/native-gardening-resources/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.grasslandgroupies.org/bee-city-wichita/native-gardening-resources/>

<https://www.grasslandgroupies.org/bee-city-wichita/>

nicole@grasslandgroupies.org

