

Bee City USA - Winston-Salem

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.

The Native Plant Bed at Miller Park Recreation Center was another highlight, where a dedicated native plant bed was integrated into the flower bed program. This was a step towards offering more native plant options for the city's flower beds, allowing residents to learn more about native plants and their importance for pollinators. The committee played a key role in advocating for the inclusion of native plants in public spaces like this. Another impactful initiative was the KWSB Flower Bulb Give Away, where partner sites across North Carolina received flower bulbs, many of which were also distributed to additional sites by recipients. These bulbs were chosen for their ability to support pollinators, and the project helped spread native plants across the community, further enhancing the local pollinator habitat network. This project was also backed by the committee, helping to expand pollinator-friendly gardens across the area. At City Hall, two dedicated Bee City Garden Beds were created, designed specifically to support pollinators. These garden beds were strategically planted with pollinator-friendly native plants and served as both a habitat and an educational tool, showing city residents how urban spaces can be transformed to support pollinators. This was a project supported by the committee and a great example of how municipal spaces can contribute to pollinator conservation.

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

198

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

2154

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

107

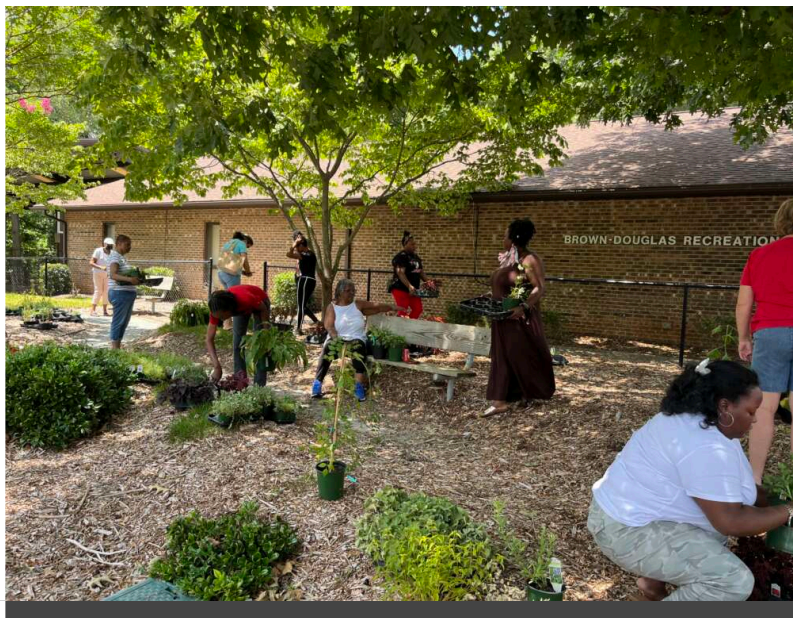
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

3891340

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...)
- 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



Education & Outreach

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

The year kicked off with a series of garden club presentations on native plants. Andy, alongside local garden clubs, offered detailed talks, explaining the importance of using native plants to support local wildlife and improve biodiversity. These talks were especially beneficial for gardeners looking to make their spaces more pollinator-friendly. In addition, Andy hosted presentations to scout groups, where young people learned how to create environments that attract and sustain pollinators. These scouts gained a deeper understanding of how simple actions, like planting native flowers, can have a profound impact on local ecosystems. At local farmers markets, a children's program about bees captured the attention of over 65 young attendees. The program introduced kids to the fascinating world of pollinators through fun, interactive activities that made learning about bees exciting and memorable. These young participants not only learned about the importance of bees but were also encouraged to become future advocates for these essential

creatures. Community engagement continued with a flower bed planting at a local rec center, where volunteers helped beautify public spaces while enhancing pollinator habitats. The event became a great example of how the city can turn public spaces into welcoming environments for pollinators. This was part of a larger initiative that also saw the distribution of 486 free native plants to local residents, offering them the opportunity to contribute to the cause right in their own backyards. The first annual Community Roots Day brought 134 enthusiastic participants together to celebrate the environment and learn about sustainable gardening practices. The event included workshops on pollinator-friendly gardening, demonstrations, and hands-on activities that empowered local citizens to create their own pollinator havens. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a special planting event took place, bringing together members of the community to plant native species, honoring Dr. King's legacy of service and environmental stewardship. One of the most impactful events of the year was the Streambank Native Plant Planting, where volunteers planted native species along local streambanks, enhancing both water quality and the surrounding habitat for pollinators. This event connected environmental restoration with pollinator advocacy, showing the deep connection between healthy waterways and thriving ecosystems. For children and families, a special Storytime at a local bookstore introduced stories about bees and other pollinators to over 86 attendees, combining literature with education in a fun and engaging way. The grand finale of the year was the Earth Day Fair, which drew an impressive 8,000 people. The fair featured exhibits on pollinators, hands-on gardening workshops, and opportunities to learn how everyone could make a difference in protecting pollinator populations. With large crowds and an overwhelming positive response, the Earth Day Fair cemented Winston-Salem's commitment to sustainability and pollinator protection.

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

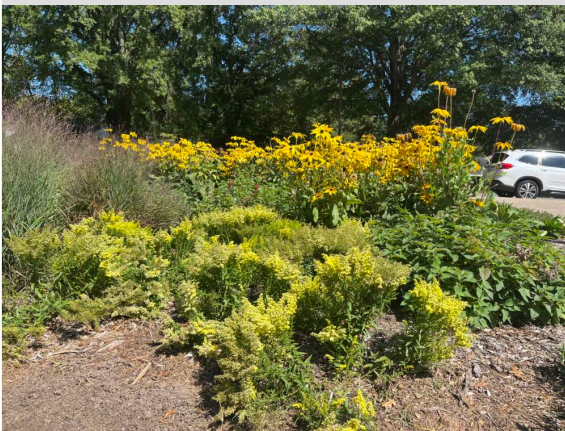
11

How many people attended those events (in total)?

12673

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

3



miller park native bed



invasive plant removal party



streambank clean-up & native seed planting

BEE CITY USA[®]



WINSTON-SALEM

Policies & Practices

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

We purchased a steamer to use on weeds instead of using roundup.

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.

As of March 5th, 2024 the City of Winston-Salem City Council has voted to expand residential allowances to maintain Natural Landscape Areas. To support this effort, Sustainability will be accepting applications from interested residents who are seeking to establish a Natural Landscape Area. By submitting an application, residents will be registering their landscape areas with the city, and will receive a free Natural Landscape Sign to display along the publicly visible edge of their landscape area.

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

Yes, we are currently promoting "No Mow March" county-wide to encourage residents to let their lawns grow for the month of March.

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.

- 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>)

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Suggested Native Plant List Oct 1 2019.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Bee City General Information 2021.pdf](#)

<https://www.cityofws.org/921/Bee-City-USA>

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