

# Bee City USA - Woodstock

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.*

76 people shared in the creation and or enhancement of pollinator habitats during 19 events outlined below. Town staff and volunteers created a mason bee habitat to be installed in a downtown garden; the structure was created using recycled materials. The Town of Woodstock has a Tribute Tree program where individuals or groups can purchase a tree to memorialize someone or an event, the tree is planted on Town property and then is maintained by the Town's Arborist. In 2024 three trees were purchased, all native to Virginia, and planted with in Town parks. One of the plantings was in memory of a member of Sustainability Matters who passed and at the tree planting a group of 20+ people attended. The Town's Arborist shared some important facts regarding the planting of native trees and their positive benefits to the local ecology. In the fall of 2024, town staff and volunteers planted 54 trees, 90% native to Virginia, as part of a project addressing public spaces and rights-of-ways in need of trees. Part of this project included the removal of non-native/invasive species and native species planted in their place to create better pollinator habitats.

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

19

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

76

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

19

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

5564

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

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

- Roadside/rights of way planting
- Other



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## Education & Outreach

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

1,683 persons were involved in a total of 30 activities in Woodstock vicinity. Events hosted by the Woodstock Bee Community included: 75 persons attended a total of six Tree Board meetings, one day every other month. During these meetings activities are shared by the Bee City committee and pollinator activities are discussed. Approximately 500 people total visited the annual Tree Board table the Shenandoah County Fair, over a period of six days, in Woodstock where pollinator handouts were distributed as well as a drawing to win pollinator plants. Tree Board volunteers and town staff (10 people) celebrated Arbor Day with 258 second and third graders, distributing native trees and discussing the importance of pollinators and monarchs. The Shenandoah County Beekeepers (SCB) held 15 meetings in 2023 at the Woodstock Town Hall. Pollinator education, beekeeping practices and outreach are discussed in each meeting. The total number of people who attended these meetings was 120. The Town of Woodstock partners with the Woodstock Police Department to host National Night Out at W.O. Riley Park every year. As part of this event in 2024, a local beekeeper had a live hive on display along with pollinator friendly information. Approximately 700 community residents attended this event. The Town of Woodstock Arborist gave a presentation to 20 members of the Woodstock Garden Club on the plans to develop an arboretum within the Town and proper tree selection for private spaces; native trees and their benefits to pollinators were the highlight of the species discussed.

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

49

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

1759

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

2



The Town Arborist giving a presentation to the Shenandoah Garden Club, Woodstock Chapter. (credit Barb Hallar, Woodstock Garden Club)



Bee City designation sign, within Town Hall (credit Jill Jefferson, Deputy Director Public Works)

## Policies & Practices

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

Woodstock continues to integrate pollinator-friendly efforts into its everyday practices. Firstly, we continue to follow the comprehensive IPM program that prioritizes non-chemical methods of pest control whenever possible. This includes regular monitoring of pest populations, implementing cultural practices to discourage pest infestations, and employing mechanical and biological controls as alternatives to chemical pesticides. Additionally, we continue to use the targeted approach to pesticide use, opting for selective and low-impact products that minimize harm to non-target organisms, including pollinators. Furthermore, in collaboration with the town Tree Board, we continue to use the guidelines for tree planting and maintenance that emphasize the selection of native tree species known to support pollinator populations. Town planning department follows through on these initiatives encouraging development of sites to utilize preferred native and pollinator-friendly tree and shrub species. By incorporating these pollinator-friendly practices into our public works operations and planning efforts, Woodstock is actively working to create a more sustainable and ecologically resilient community while safeguarding the health and well-being of our pollinator

species.

*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.*

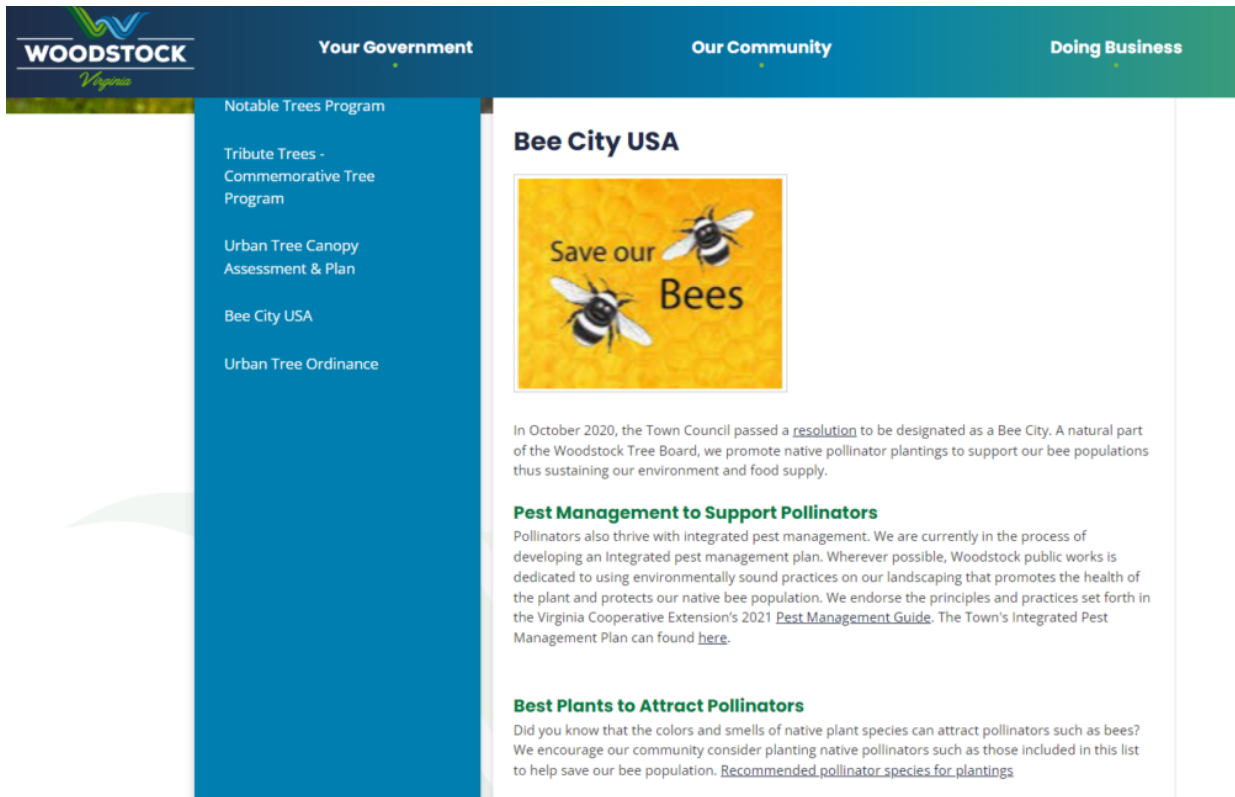
No direct efforts were made, but through relationships with local garden centers and landscape companies, the Town's Arborist continues to encourage the controlled usage of pesticides on private lands by these companies.

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

In Woodstock, there are several policy initiatives underway aimed at enhancing the protection of pollinators, people, and waterways from pesticides. One significant measure is the annual passage of Pollinator Awareness Week as a formal resolution by elected officials. This week serves as a focal point for raising awareness about the importance of pollinators and the threats they face from pesticide use. Additionally, our town has implemented a policy directive for planning and zoning staff to actively promote the inclusion of native landscaping and preferred trees and shrubs in landscaping plans for subdivisions and commercial developments. This initiative encourages developers to prioritize native plant species known to support local pollinator populations and contribute to ecosystem health. By integrating native landscaping practices into urban development projects, we aim to create more sustainable environments that benefit both pollinators and people while also safeguarding our waterways from the harmful impacts of pesticide runoff. In addition, Woodstock's public works staff, under the direction of the arborist, has a policy to implement IPM where practicable and to avoid pesticides and fungicides on all publicly-maintained landscaping, unless warranted after all IPM efforts have been undertaken. The Woodstock Tree Board has a policy of an annual Arbor Day native tree sapling distribution to the second and third graders at the local W.W. Robinson Elementary School in Woodstock. The Tree Board members utilize classroom time to discuss the Bee City and Tree City designations and importance of native pollinators. The Town's Arborist has a relationship with a local garden center and has continued to encourage them to promote the sale of more native trees, shrubs and perennials. One way they are doing this is working with the Virginia Department of Forestry's Throwing Shade program. In this program, the purchaser receives a discount on native species and the seller will be reimbursed by the VDOF. These policy initiatives represent a proactive approach to environmental stewardship, demonstrating our commitment to fostering healthy ecosystems and protecting biodiversity within our community.

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

Yes, the Town's Arborist attended three workshops/conferences at which pollinator and/or IPM planning were part of the information shared. The conferences attended were the Mid Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture annual conference, Waynesboro Tree Workshop and the Roanoke Tree Workshop.



Woodstock VA Bee City Website Page highlighting IPM and Preferred Species list. (credit Jill Jefferson, Deputy Director of Public Works)

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Arbor day native tree free tree distribution in our local school schools is a successful event in which town staff and volunteers can share the importance of trees and pollinators with hundreds of students. Also, hosting a booth at the county Fair during “Fair week” with pollinator plant giveaways and handouts draws a lot of attention to the importance of pollinators to the general public. The ability for Town staff to share its knowledge with local groups is a great way to educate those outside of the professional world.

Committee Photo





Several members of Woodstock Tree Board (credit Town Staff)

Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [IPM Plan.pdf](#)

<https://www.townofwoodstockva.com/DocumentCenter/View/2133/IPM-Plan>

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Recommended Plant Bio-Diversity List.docx](#)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>

<https://www.woodstockva.gov/589/Bee-City-USA>

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<https://instagram.com/discoverwoodstockva>

<https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Woodstock-Virginia-201011663375674>

