

Bee City USA - City of Ypsilanti

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 City is collaborating with the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commission to create 2 new wetland projects, one each at Ypsilanti's Candy Cane Park and Recreation Park. The City is also working to revamp and reboot the City-owned rain garden located at its event space the Freighthouse. All 3 projects will aim to remove woody invasives and non-native plants, and replace with native plants. The Freighthouse project will likely be completed in 2025 and the 2 wetland projects are funding dependent, and will most likely be completed in 2026 or 2027.

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

3

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

45

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

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Other

Education & Outreach

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

The Festival of the Pollinator was held again, this being the third year under this name (previously it was known as the Festival of the Honeybee). Participating businesses and events showcase pollinator-themed products or artwork. The highlight featured event was the "Rumble of the Bumble" in which a mock wrestling match was staged between a bumblebee wrestler and a pesticide wrestler (the bumblebee won!). This event is organized by a local nonprofit.

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

1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1000

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

2

Big Bruce BuzzBee flying high
taking Guy Fosate Down! Go
Bruce go!!!



The Festival of the Pollinator "Rumble of the Bumble," a professional wrestling match held between Bruce Buzzbee and the Pesky Pesticides (Bruce won!). Photo Credit Joe Salley for Rumble of the Bumble

Policies & Practices

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

Herbicide use was strictly limited to invasives control and poison ivy control (when the poison ivy intruded into regularly occupied spaces). Other pesticides were only applied indoors to control normal “household” pests such as mice and ants and were applied by a registered commercial applicator.

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.

Yes; a City resident adopted an approximate 10 sqft space of median space on Garland St to create a pollinator garden, complete with educational signage.

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

In 2024 the City of Ypsilanti passed the Low Mow May Resolution, intended to maintain springtime habitats for bees and other pollinators while allowing native flowers and plants to emerge for the season. The resolution received unanimous support from the Ypsilanti City Council.

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

NA

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
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

The City is fortunate to have lots of residential support for pollinator-friendly policies, native plantings, and tree

maintenance. Any policy we implement can only be maintained sustainably with the support of the public.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3097/Find-Native-Plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3097/Find-Native-Plants>

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/642/Sustainability-Commission>
wesslerb@cityofypsilanti.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Ypsi.Michigan>