

HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD PROJECTS 2023



2023 Highlights: As part of the City’s current strategic planning process, the Tree Board has participated in a group effort to **examine and update sections of the City Code and regulations** in regards to existing trees and proposed plantings. A Tree Canopy Survey, requested last year by the board, was conducted in 2023 in order to have concrete numbers as the City continues to grow. Methods that avoid loss of tree canopy and general loss of trees in the City’s **Urban Forest coverage** is something the Tree Board continues to address. ~ During the year, the popular Bee City USA program was reorganized, now being managed by City staff, with emphasis on maintenance and expansion of pollinator-friendly landscapes. A new **Pollinator Trail** was mapped through the City and beyond. ~ The Tree Board organized other events and projects this year, which helped focus residents’ interest in trees. ~ The board’s long-time member and chair, Mac Brackett, announced his **retirement**, effective at the end of 2023. Tree Board members and City staff honored his excellent service and leadership.

Sunday, November 5 – Greenspace Enhancement Projects Walkabout. 2-3:30 p.m. Mark Stierwalt, City Public Works Superintendent, led an **exploration stroll** along the projected Oklawaha Greenway extension into a greenspace area along Clear Creek being developed for public use. Already graced with two ponds teeming with wildlife, healthy trees, and pollinator-friendly meadows, the future public greenspace was introduced. 15 attendees on a fine autumn day bushwacked along streams and strolled through open fields with Mark, full of enthusiasm and interest. Volunteer Ken Fitch recorded the event in photos.



October 1-14 – NeighborWoods planting projects. 9th Avenue West homeowners and residents in Henderson Village, Blue Ridge Villas, Park Place, and Druid Hills neighborhood participated by ordering free trees. A **total of 62 trees**, including dogwoods, redbuds, sweetbay and saucer magnolias, serviceberry, crabapple, and red oak will be planted at those locations. The trees will be planted in honor of Tree Board Chair Mac Brackett, who will retire Dec. 31. (Due to extreme drought, this planting project did not take place. The trees were over-wintered and will be planted in Spring 2024.)



Saturday, Sept. 30 – Flock to the Rock at Chimney Rock Park. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The City was invited to host a Bee City USA booth at this event. The event, now in its 15th year, focuses on birding, but also includes discussion of Monarch migration and other pollinator information, as CRP is an official monarch waystation. The **Symbolic Monarch Migration** was going on in Henderson County schools during this same time period. Volunteers Patrice German, Friends of Bee City USA, and Jim Poe, Henderson County Beekeepers, manned the booth, which served about 110 attendees.

September – Monarch Migration Month. A number of events were scheduled during the month to celebrate the monarch migration, including school programs sponsored by Bee City USA - Hendersonville.



Mid-Aug.-Oct. 20 – Symbolic Monarch Migration. Bee City USA-Hendersonville invited local classrooms, youth organizations, and individual students to join this **international educational program**. A dropbox was set up at Bullington Gardens by Friends of Bee City USA with paper butterflies for visiting children to color, resulting in 31 butterflies from City residents and 42 from elsewhere. Sixty of those requested follow-up information on the “journey” of their butterflies to Mexico. They were informed when their symbolic butterflies arrived in Mexico and will receive a note next spring when the butterflies return, sent by school children in Mexico.

Sunday, August 20 – Guided Tree Walk on Hendersonville’s Main Street. 2 p.m. **City Arborist Bill Leatherwood** led a walk along Main Street to discuss how the various types of trees and shrubs are maintained and supported by his crew to create a stress-free environment for healthy plants. About 15 attendees enjoyed the walk at no charge. Leatherwood’s long-time assistant, Joe Weaver, came along too, several Tree Board members attended, and volunteer photographer Ken Fitch joined Mary Jo in taking photos along the way.

July 1 – Bee City USA-Hendersonville, which is a subsidiary program of the Tree Board, was reorganized and moved from Bullington Gardens management to City management under the new Sustainability coordinator.



June – Pollinator Month. Bee City USA-Hendersonville created/published an online calendar of educational events scheduled during Pollinator Month. June 3, for example, was Pollinator Day at the Hendersonville Maple Street Farmer’s Market, garnering much interest from shoppers. After learning about the different types of antennae and the insects each type belongs to, kids made antennae; they also planted sunflower seeds in pots to take home. The Farmer’s Market set up a Pollinator Passport hunt: kids got their “passport” checked off when they visited vendors selling goods made possible by pollinators. Each completed passport resulted in a prize.

May 27-28 – Garden Jubilee. This fun, annual event on a rainy weekend in downtown Hendersonville provided many visitors to the Bee City USA-Hendersonville tent. Where, as always, free seed packets were distributed, pollinator-friendly gardening info given, and handmade antennae-to-go distributed to anyone who wanted to wear them. Kids planted sunflower seed pots to take home. “Native Bees versus Honey Bees - We’re All In This Together” was presented by John Gleman of Green River Bee Company at the Visitor Center stage.

Friday, May 12 – Arbor Day Celebration at Toms Park. Michele Garashi-Ellick, new president of Four Seasons Rotary, Public Works staff members, members of Four Seasons Rotary, members of the Tree Board, and a few members of the public presented the annual program to celebrate **Arbor Day**. Two stewartia trees were planted near the shuffleboard courts in a green area at the corner of Lily Pond Lane and W. Allen St. About 15 people attended, Mayor Volk proclaimed May 12 as Arbor Day in Hendersonville, and Ms. Garashi-Ellick spoke on behalf of the Rotary Club, which organized the event.



Saturday, April 22 – Hendo Earth Day Fest event on Main Street. Bee City USA-Hendersonville and Tree Board participated at this Earth Day festival organized by

Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board. Several hundred attendees learned about environmental programs and projects in and around the City.

Tuesday, March 21 – “Learn More about the NC Urban Forest Council.” 5 p.m., Henderson County Public Library auditorium, Washington St.. A public educational program at no charge. Mark Foster, arborist for the City of Asheville and former chair of the **NC Urban Forest Council**, spoke about the mission, purpose, and services of the state’s Council. About 20 people attended and contributed to the discussion. A Tree Board member welcomed all and presented the speaker, volunteer Ken Fitch took photos, and other volunteers helped sign people in. Tree Board brochures were made available.



Sunday, March 5 – A Guided Walk Along an Award-Winning Stream Restoration Project. 2 p.m. Mike Huffman, City Stormwater Division Manager, conducted a walkabout on the Allen Branch **streambank restoration project** (next to the US Post Office Annex, 90 Lakewood Rd). 17 people attended who were interested in the project and how it was accomplished. They were also interested in the work of the Tree Board and several took brochures while others signed up as potential volunteers. At least 2 people expressed interest in becoming a member of the Tree Board.



Winter 2023 -- Yarn-Bombing Project at the Train Depot. During the winter months, seven trees near the Historic Train Depot on Maple St. were wrapped in decorative, colorful yarn by the STEAP organization (and removed in spring when the trees began to bloom). This **tree-centric art installation** was approved by the Tree Board and appreciated by many who passed by.

Hendersonville Tree Board meets monthly at the City Operations Center, 305 Williams St., at 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday. The public is invited to attend.