

Bee City USA

Renewal Preview – Report on 2025

Statistics

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2025 (in total)?

A total of 12 pollinator related events were hosted which include:

- Hendo Earth Fest
- Sponsorship of 10 classrooms for Symbolic Monarch Migration activity
- 6 Farmers Market educational events
- Native rain garden plant giveaway
- Bradford Pear Bounty event
- Tree giveaway event
- Tabling at Garden Jubilee

How many people attended those events (in total)?

Approximately 2,500 attended the above 12 events.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2025?

Approximately 250 habitats were enhanced through native tree giveaways, native rain garden plant giveaways, and Bradford Pear Bounty replacement program.

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

Approximately 67 people assisted with these projects which include volunteers, staff, and board members.

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

All projects benefited monarchs or nectar plantings. The projects listed previously also don't include the 7 existing pollinator garden sites maintained by the City.

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

Estimating that small trees take up approximately 80 square feet, a total of 16,000 sq. ft. of habitat was created with additional sq. ft. of improvements from the native rain garden plant giveaway. The City's Four Seasons Boulevard pollinator garden was also expanded with additional pollinator plants however the total square footage of improvement is not known.

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

X Flower garden

- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- X Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- X Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- X Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- X Rain garden/bioswale
- X Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other

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

- X Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- X Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- X 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)
- X 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
 - Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
 - Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
 - Dropped pesticide use altogether 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>)
- X Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

- X 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>)
- X Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)? 4

Essay Questions

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2025, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

This year City of Hendersonville staff, Environmental Sustainability Board, and Tree Board worked together to host several pollinator conservation events and outreach activities. First was our third annual Hendo Earth Fest which brings an estimated 2,000 visitors and features exhibitors and interactive activities from a wide range of sustainability related focuses. A few pollinator focused exhibitors included Caregivers of Mother Earth, Carolina Nature Tours, City of Hendersonville Tree Board, Bee City, and Environmental Sustainability Board, Henderson County Beekeepers, and more.

During the annual Symbolic Monarch Migration month in September, our Environmental Sustainability Board sponsored 10 classrooms to have an educational activity coloring and sending monarch butterflies to classrooms in Mexico. The Board also tabled at 6 Farmers Market days throughout the year at their Sustainability Demonstration Station which features 2 pollinator and vegetable garden beds. The Board also hosted a native rain garden plant giveaway event which was a great way to teach people how to utilize a small area on their property for pollinator habitat.

Our Tree Board hosted the annual Bradford Pear Bounty program where free native trees (including trees beneficial to pollinators such as Eastern Redbud, Red Maple, and Dogwoods to name a few) were given away to approximately 100 participants who in exchange removed invasive Bradford Pear trees from their property. The Board and City staff also hosted a native tree giveaway to help rebuild lost tree canopy from Hurricane Helene. 100 trees were given away which included many varieties benefiting pollinators. Lastly, the board tabled at Garden Jubilee, an event that attracts around 200,000 people to educate folks on the benefits of native and pollinator trees and plants.

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2025, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

The City’s Tree Board and Environmental Sustainability Board helped community members create pollinator habitats through their native rain garden plant giveaway, Bradford Pear Bounty tree giveaway, and native tree giveaway. The native rain garden plants included Clethra hummingbird which is a native plant attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and numerous native bee species. The other two tree giveaway events featured several native

pollinator tree species including Sycamore, Pignut Hickory, Eastern Redbud, Crabapple, Overcup Oak, and Willow Oak.

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

All our tree maintenance is completed by Leatherwood Wildland Management who maintains an IPM plan and implements non-chemical practices where possible such as using organic horticultural oil, essentially using synthetic pesticides as a last result if organic methods aren't successful or if needed for invasive species removal. Synthetic pesticides and herbicides are never used on pollinator sites.

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.

The Tree Board maintains a landscape plant list for developers, gardeners, and homeowners.

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

There are no new initiatives in this area.

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

The City of Hendersonville Public Works Department employees (not committee) are trained in best practices for IPM and pesticides are not used within pollinator habitat areas.

Photos



Fall tree giveaway



Henderson County Beekeepers Association tabling at Hendo Earth Fest



Pollinator rain garden plant giveaway