

Bee City USA - Denton

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

This Spring, the City of Denton received a Monarch Watch Grant that provided us with 300 milkweed plants. We planted all 300, along with hundreds of other native plants, at the city's nature preserve Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (CCNHC). During "Pollinator Week" we were also able to install a new bug hotel and release 200 leaf cutter bees at CCNHC. The City of Denton recently presented plans to convert 237 acres of open space and right-of-way property into wildflower areas. These areas are currently being mowed up to 20 times a year. The reduction in mowing and maintenance will help fund seeding and planting in these new areas. Implementation of this program is already underway. Denton is also pursuing a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Habitat Certification and will be conducting outreach and education within the community to motivate residents to create their own habitats at homes, schools and businesses. To achieve community certification the City will need hundreds of residents to certify their habitats in the community. Currently, we have 77 community habitats throughout the City of Denton.

Education & Outreach

Prior to the beginning of the pandemic the City conducted 9 garden related workshops (295 attendees) along with a beekeeping workshop (70 attendees). During these events the Sustainability Department was able to distribute around 300 seed packets that contained native mixes selected to support pollinators (seeds include "Happy Bee Mix" and "Butterfly Retreat Mix" from Native American Seeds/Seed Source). During "Pollinator Week" the Sustainability Department hosted a virtual beekeeping roundtable to talk with local beekeepers about how residents can get involved and help beekeepers. Sustainability also partnered with the City of Denton South Branch Library to host a virtual pollinator themed story time and passed a Pollinator Proclamation. Lastly, the Sustainability Department conducted a pollinator themed social media campaign educating the public about a variety of pollinators (see appendix).

Policies & Practices

In June, the City of Denton adopted an updated version of its Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). The mission of this policy is "to manage pests that are harmful to the health, function or aesthetic value of City landscapes and public health in a manner that is efficient, effective, environmentally-responsible, and with careful attention to the safety of the public and department employees." The City of Denton adopted the Simply Sustainable: A Framework for Denton's Future this past Fall. The plan contains eight focus areas along with goals, strategies and performance measures. In the Resiliency and



Public Health Chapter there is a strategy for the Bee City USA program along with other pollinator programs.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

[https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/all-departments/quality-of-life/parks-recreation-\(1\)/initiatives](https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/all-departments/quality-of-life/parks-recreation-(1)/initiatives)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More

