

Bee City USA - Howard County

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Our largest habitat projects were meadow installation at two County Parks. Rockburn Branch Park is a 3.0-acre pollinator meadow planted with Ernst Conservation Seed Mix – Maryland Upland Mix ERNMX-172. This mix is comprised of 15 herbaceous and grass species beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife. It contains: Butterfly weed, asters, partridge pea, sensitive pea, Virginia wildrye, wild bergamot, beardtongue, narrowleaf mountain mint, black-eyed Susan, little bluestem, wild Senna, and goldenrods. Belmont Historic Manor is a 4.5-acre pollinator meadow planted with Ernst Conservation Seed Mix – Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Mix ERNMX-153S. This mix is comprised of 30 herbaceous and grass species beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife. It contains: Little bluestem, Sideoats grama, Virginia wildrye, purple coneflower, partridge pea, coreopsis, wild bergamot, beardtongue, narrowleaf mountain mint, black-eyed Susan, wild Senna, goldenrods, oxeye sunflower, blazing star, spiderwort, butterfly weed, blue false indigo, golden alexanders, asters, mistflower, white avens, sundrops, and orange coneflower. Both meadows are managed by a Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks Howard County and Bee City Committee member. In addition to these larger meadow installs, our six Native Plant Pollinator Garden Design Templates encouraged smaller pollinator garden installations on residential properties. As mentioned earlier, we created a Habitat Registration form to help track habitat creation through our Bee City efforts. We recently finalized educational habitat signage which includes our affiliate logo, for those who fill out our habitat registration form. We have ordered 200 of these signs and they will be free of charge for those who would like them. We have also ordered 3 of the National Bee City street signs to install this Spring. Another project that is in the works and due to be completed this Spring is a Cul-de-Sac version of our Garden Design Templates. These are being developed in partnership with local community associations that provide grant funding to residents to plant their cul-de-sacs. This project is an effort to update the existing plant list that was being provided with the grant, which included invasive species, and to increase the amount of native pollinator plants through easy to follow templates made for cul-de-sacs.





Rockburn Meadow - Full Bloom August 2020



Habitat Signs

Education & Outreach

Our committee hosted seven events during Pollinator Week June 20-28 held over a variety of virtual media due to Covid restrictions. The topics covered were diverse and included a Native Bee talk, a Beehive tour, a Meadow tour, Garden tours and Pollinator Plant programs. We also created a vote for the Official Pollinator Plant of Howard County Bee City USA as a fun way to inform and engage the community about the plants that provide the most value to a diversity of pollinators. At a time where people had to remain at home, this vote offered a fun activity for families and adults. We had over 500 people cast their votes and we promoted this vote during the Spring and through Pollinator week. The Howard County Executive, Calvin Ball, attended our event to reveal and announce the winner—Bee Balm! Programs were hosted and delivered by different partner member organizations and the committee worked collaboratively to develop programming for the week. Much of this programming was delivered by virtual means, but small group public programs were also hosted throughout the summer and fall. In addition, we developed six Native Plant Pollinator Garden Design Templates for varying site conditions. We included a list of local native plant suppliers that were accessible during the pandemic. We developed a Habitat Registration Form to help track the amount of habitat created through our Bee City efforts and encouraged residents to register their habitat to be counted in the Howard County Pollinator Habitat total! In the fall we hosted a native plant giveaway for 5th graders in the County. We tied the plants to our pollinator plant vote and provided Bee Balm, Milkweed, Goldenrod, Mountain Mint, and New England Aster.





Policies & Practices

The purpose of this policy is to protect and enhance both natural and developed landscapes. These procedures define and strengthen the existing proactive approach to landscape management by strengthening current integrated pest management protocols and limiting the use of pesticides to the circumstances defined herein. To the extent allowed by law, Howard County shall implement sustainable land and building pesticide management practices on all County controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds that adheres to generally accepted integrated pest management practices and procedures, including thorough documentation and reporting of all pesticide applications. Howard County government employees required to possess a Maryland Pesticide Applicator's certification are required to attend an annual Maryland State approved recertification training. Non-certified staff, that handle pesticides are required to attend a County/State Pesticide Application training. Following training, staff shall be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. (b) Employees are also strongly encouraged to attend sustainable sites, landscaping, or similar trainings to better understand alternatives to pesticide application, as well as other approaches to reduce the need for applications.

3. Contractor Requirements: Contractors applying pesticides on County property shall adhere to the following requirements : Must possess a Maryland Pesticide Applicators License and submit a copy to the County Follow all Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations. Submit product label prior to application Review Maryland Pesticide Sensitivity List prior to application. Apply IPM principals and submit a copy of the Maryland pesticide application record post-application. Any submissions required above shall be made to the contract administrator that supervises the contract.

4. Management of Noxious Weeds as Required by State Law: All work done on County property as part of any program to control noxious weeds will be done in compliance with State law. The noxious weed program will submit an annual report to be included with the reports from the Directors of Public Works and Recreation & Parks as specified in Subtitle I. Neonicotinoids, Glyphosate and Chlorpyrifos: The use of chlorpydfos is prohibited on all County property. The use of neonicotinoids and glyphosate is prohibited on all County property with the exceptions of: (a) County property under agricultural lease; and (b) all work done under the County's cooperative agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the control and eradication of noxious weeds. Exemptions for the use of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, for other uses, may be granted by the Director of Recreation & Parks or Director of Public Works if a request is submitted in writing that identifies the proposed location of application and pesticide to be used and shows: (a) (b) The use is to prevent or combat an infestation of a species that can only be controlled by using neonicotinoids or glyphosate; and An alternate pesticide will not provide effective and safe control of the pest; and 3 POLICY & PROCEDURE (C) The benefits of saving a species population in the County by applying pesticides outweigh the potential negative impacts of treating with neonicotinoids or glyphosate at this location. Such exemptions must be granted in writing.

5. Agricultural Lease: Agricultural land managers and their subcontractors shall adhere to the following requirements when utilizing restricted use pesticides on County property: (a) (b) (C) (d) Adhere to the Conservation Plan written by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and approved by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Must possess a Maryland pesticide applicator's license and submit a



copy to the County Lease Administrator. When available, agricultural land managers are encouraged to use alternatives to neonicotinoids and glyphosate in their farming operations. Agricultural land managers shall provide an annual pesticide use report to include a listing of pesticide uses by location, pesticide name, and amount of concentrate used (in ounces) for the past 2 years, to include any noxious weed treatments, as well as, pesticide application protocols, which will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks lease administrator. (c) REPORTING The Directors of the Departments of Recreation & Parks and Public Works will each present an annual report to the County Executive (due April 22 for the previous calendar year) that contains the following: (a) A listing of pesticide uses by location, pesticide name, and amount of concentrate used (in ounces) for the past 2 years, to include any noxious weed and guardrail maintenance treatments, (b) (C) An explanation of why any pesticide had more than a 15% increase or decrease in usage over the 2 years reported, A list and copies of all exemption requests approved and denied, for the reporting period and a comparison to the year prior, 4 POLICY & PROCEDURE (d) A narrative describing staff trainings, alternatives considered, education initiatives, successes and challenges. If applicable, any forecasted needs or adaptive management strategies anticipated based on potential environmental or situational changes should be included in the narrative, and (e) A narrative explaining plans for future pesticide use and reduction in coordination with the Office of Community Sustainability. (d) POLICY REVIEW AND MODIFICATION This policy shall be evaluated biennially and updated by the Office of Community Sustainability in cooperation with other departments as new environmentally sensitive products and methods are developed. Howard County will continue to follow Integrated Pest Management practices as updated and recommended by a recognized authority. Modifications to this policy must be approved by the County Executive.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Pesticide-Use-on-County-Property-rev.-10.22.19.pdf](file:///C:/Users/jcostantino/Desktop/Telework/NP%20SC/Pesticide-Use-on-County-Property-rev.-10.22.19.pdf)

<file:///C:/Users/jcostantino/Desktop/Telework/NP%20SC/Pesticide-Use-on-County-Property-rev.-10.22.19.pdf>


Recommended Native Plant List: [Howard County Native Plants.xlsx](https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/)

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Suppliers During Coronavirus.pdf](https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/)

<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/>



<p>Department of</p>  <p>County Administration</p>	<p>HOWARD COUNTY</p> <p>Policy and Procedure</p> <p>Title: Pesticide Use on County Property</p>	<p>Number: 100.18</p> <p>Prepared By: Office of the CAO</p> <p>Initial Release Date: 10/4/2019</p> <p>Revised: 10/22/2019</p>
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Policy

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Basic Procedure

(a) DEFINITIONS

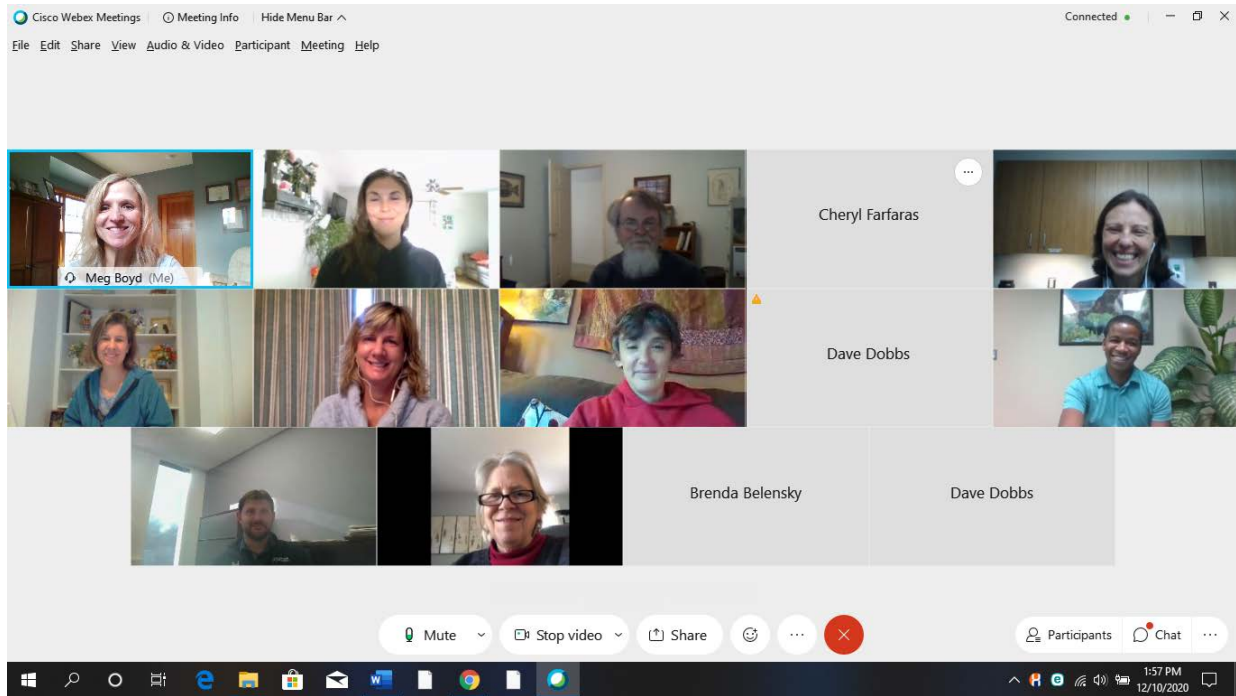
1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM): means an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of unwanted pests and plants through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant plant varieties. The use of pesticides is minimized, and the least toxic option is used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines. Treatments are made with the goal of controlling only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.
2. Sustainable Land & Building Pesticide Management:
 - (a) Eliminates or mitigates economic and health damage caused by pests.
 - (b) Uses one or more of the following: (i) IPM; (ii) site or pest inspections; (iii) pest population monitoring and prevention strategies; (iv) an evaluation of the need for pest control; and, (v) one or more pest prevention and management methods, such as: habitat modifications, sanitation practices, entryway closures, structural repair,



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<https://livegreenhoward.com/land/pollinators/hocopollinator@gmail.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/HCbecityUSA>



Pollinator Committee - Virtual Meeting

