

Bee City USA - Tyler

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Tyler's Bee City USA Committee and the East Texas Beekeepers Association (ETBA) partnered up to build a Bee Observatory at the Rose Garden in Tyler. The Rose Garden is managed by the Parks and Rec Department for the City of Tyler. COVID-19 restrictions pushed the starting date of the construction to August. With the financial support of Keep Tyler Beautiful, five volunteers worked under the summer heat to build the structure. The volunteers were led by a boy scout from Boys Scouts of East Texas, Bradley Moore. The construction included the platform, roof, and the steps where the actual beehive box will sit on. The construction pushed the time frame to transfer bees into the observatory to the Spring of 2021. The structure is now complete, and we are in the process of hosting a beehive with the help of the ETBA. The plan is to utilize the Bee Observatory as an educational tool during Bee City USA events and school activities at the Rose Garden. ETBA has promised help with the maintenance and upkeep of the bees at the Bee Observatory. In the Summer of 2020, we had two groups of 10 students help with the maintenance of the Native Plant Garden located near Woldert Park. One of the groups also planted four Azaleas, native plants to East Texas. The garden is a breeding ground to all types of native plants and pollinators. During the summer months, before COVID-19 and hopefully after, the garden is used as an educational tool for the City's summer school programs. The summer program attendees, mainly students from the ages of six through 13, learn about pollinators and receive hands-on education on how to plant a vegetable and fruit garden in the Native Plant Garden. The City of Tyler, with the help of Smith County Master Gardeners, also keeps a flourishing pollinator garden called the IDEA Garden, or also known as Tyler Botanical Garden, located in the Rose Garden. The 10,000 square foot garden is home to various plant species native to East Texas and hundreds of buzzing pollinators buzzing. Each year the Tyler Trees Committee plants native trees at City of Tyler parks and public schools. This helps our native pollinators flourish in natural spaces.

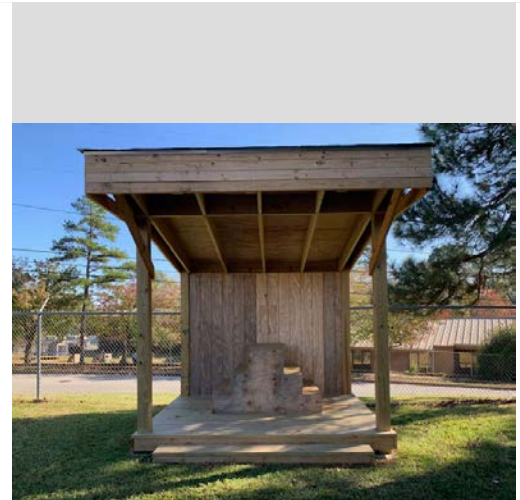




A group of students from the Hand Up Network planted four native plants at the Native Plant Garden in July of 2020.



In August, five volunteers with the Boys Scouts of East Texas helped built an 8 ft. by 10 ft. structure where the public will be able to watch a real beehive's habitat.



The construction of the structure, located north east of the Rose Garden in Tyler, is complete and ready for a beehive.

Education & Outreach

During the first months of 2020, the Bee City USA Committee met and planned to host a Bee City celebration on June 6. During the event the committee would lead activities such as bee houses made from crafts, and interactive games focused on celebrating pollinators. Event leaders included Master Gardeners and the East Texas Beekeepers Association members. The committee felt that having pollinator experts at the event was essential to bring factual, local information to the attendees. However, the event was canceled when COVID-19 guidelines were implemented nationwide. Once some restrictions were lifted, our City officials placed a 20-person limit to all City events. This made it nearly impossible to crowd control a public event, but we knew our residents' safety was our number one priority. We then decided to promote our Pollinator Week as a virtual event. All the materials and activities we had collected for the June 6 event were made available to our residents. We provided worksheets and games on our website and share those links on the Tyler Parks and Rec Facebook Page. The desire to raise pollinator awareness, even though we couldn't host an event, made us get creative. We decided to publish an interactive post asking followers to share their pollinator photos. The response was incredible. We had local beekeepers capturing their pollinator habitats that otherwise would have gone unseen by our residents.



Tyler Parks and Rec
Published by Sprout Social [?] · June 24 at 10:15 AM · 🌐

Pollinators are animals, like bees and butterflies, that move pollen from one flower to another. In celebration of National Pollinator Week, comment below with your photos of pollinators.
#KeepTylerBeautiful



Share with us your pollinator pictures!


348 People Reached 32 Engagements [Boost Post](#)

3 8 Comments 1 Share


Like Comment Share 🚪

Interactive Facebook Post published on June 24, 2020, encouraging followers to share their photographs of pollinators. Photos shown above.


Stacy Hamilton
Love · Reply · Message · 5d 2



Jenny Hamilton Wells
Like · Reply · Message · 5d 2




Kristina Tyrz Suberbielle
Like · Reply · Message · 5d 1



Our local beekeepers shared their pollinator habitats under the interactive post. Post like these and others were published during “National Pollinator Week” and as part of our virtual event.

National Pollinator Week



Read about the importance of our pollinators.
Download cards for parks and gardens.
Visit native pollinators in Tyler.
Help pollinators using pollinator-friendly landscaping?
Plant a pollinator garden for your home or apartment.
Try out some fun pollinator crafts.
Interested in making your pollinator card?

Worksheets and informative documents were made available to residents on the Keep Tyler Beautiful website under a temporary webpage titled “Celebrate National Pollinator Week.”

Policies & Practices

We are currently reviewing our IPM plan and will have one ready by late 2021. We already avoid the usage of pesticides at all our pollinator gardens and most of our parks.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_east

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.breedlovelandscape.com/>



7. URL for your recommended locally native plant species list.

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_east

8. URL for regional suppliers of those plants.

<https://www.breedlovelandscape.com/>

9. URL for intergrated pest management plan.

N/A

10. Website URL for your Bee City USA news.

KeepTylerBeautiful.com

11. Facebook or other social medial UR for your Bee City USA new.

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

Learn More

KeepTylerBeautiful.com





The Keep Tyler Beautiful Board members currently acts as Bee City USA committee.

