

Bee City USA - Lynchburg

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

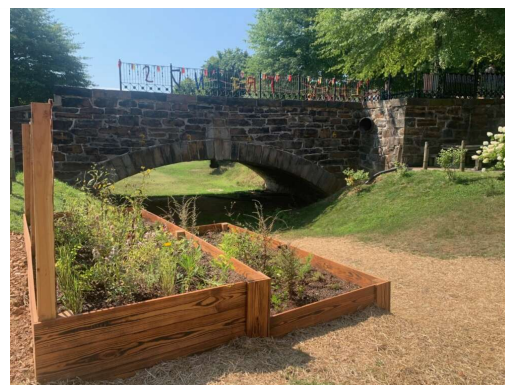
BRC planted three pollinator beds at the Elizabeth's Early Learning Center focusing on fragrance, color and texture. BRC provided instructional and educational information to staff for an ongoing living and learning project. Teachers will be maintaining the gardens and educating the young students on the importance of protecting and planting for our pollinator friends. Amazement Square installed its pollinator garden as an extension of their "Bee in the Know" exhibition. This exhibition is a live honey bee exhibition and contains six hives: two indoors and four outdoors. The new pollinator garden, designed in partnership with Irvington Spring Farms, features 16 different species of native pollinator plants acting as a year-round food source and habitat for our bees and other pollinators. BRC, in conjunction with the City of Lynchburg, added 200 plants to the Pinkerton Roadside Pollinator Garden Bed. Lynchburg's Parks & Recreation community centers each have a vegetable 'Teaching Garden' on their premises. These gardens were re-furbished and planted with vegetables, herbs and flowers this summer. Enhancements were made to the pollinator gardens at Riverside Park, our local VA Tech Extension Office, the Daniel's Hill Community Center and the City of Lynchburg's Parks & Recreation's main building, Miller Center. These enhancements consisted of native plants, annual pollinator favorites and various herbs and vegetables.



Elizabeth Early Learning Center Color Garden



LEAF Project



Amazement Square addition

Education & Outreach

Garden Day is a joint project of Hillside Garden Club and Lynchburg Garden Club. The focus this year was to demonstrate and educate the visitors on native plants, native plants in differing soil and sun locations and reducing the use of pesticides in the yard. Irvington Spring Farm hosted this event. Heidi James, of our Bee City Working Committee, has been



promoting the Bee City USA program around the state of Virginia. She has given talks about the benefits and process to garden clubs in Martinsville, Roanoke, Staunton, Richmond, Warrenton, Newport News and communities on the Eastern Shore. Heidi has more talks lined up in 2022! An Herbal Faire was a public event where BRC displayed BEE Homes and educated visitors on pollination. BRC offered Bee houses for sale and brochures on HOW to PLANT a Pollinator Garden, a Plant Guide for Beginners, Garden Secrets for Helping Bees, and How to Grow and have a Certified Pollinator Garden. A Seed Paper-Oak Leaf was given to visitors to plant, water and feed a bee! Questions on invasive plants were answered with visuals and discussions. A Presentation Hour giving by BRC Dottie Hendricksen and guest MG Liz Wade gathered enthusiastic visitors to learn more about pollination and specific plantings. Bee-u-tiful Lynchburg was the postponed kick-off event to celebrate Lynchburg becoming a certified Bee City USA in conjunction with the 51st anniversary of Earth Day. The mission of the event was to support local farmers while providing educational outreach booths from a wide variety of organizations concerned about pollinators. The event featured pollinator friendly vendors and fun, safe activities for the whole family. This event was hosted by Lynchburg Parks & Recreation. Pollinator Week at the Market consisted of educational, visual and craft booths set up at the local farmer's market with various members/groups of Lynchburg's Bee City Committee participating. City of Lynchburg's Water Resources shared information about planting native plants to help improve residential storm-water. City of Lynchburg's P&R provided 'WHAT a BEE SEES' booth. Pollinator plants were placed in a 4X6 dark room in order for visitors to see via black light what/how bees might 'see'. The light enhances the plants characteristics and pollen grains giving an idea of what and how bees visualize plants vs the human eye. IMPORTANT note: Upon experimenting with plants to choose for the booth - many pollinators were found to be foraging well after midnight!

Policies & Practices

IPM – Athletic Fields Our P&R Department has begun to spot pull/remove weeds rather than spraying the whole area unnecessarily on our athletic fields. For some preemergent applications, we use granular rather than liquid application to reduce chances of leaching, spills or overspray. Granular application is a more controlled method of application. We have begun over-seeding warm season grass with cool season grasses. This practice keeps weed pressure down resulting in less need for spraying weeds on the athletic turf. The over-seeding also acts as a buffer/filter to catch more pollutants in rainwater runoff before it reaches our streams and creeks.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants of Central Virginia latest.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Source of Native Plants in the Central Virginia Area.docx](#)



Learn More

<https://www.lynchburgparksandrec.com/bee-city-usa/>

