

Bee City USA - Norcross

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

BCC and community partners created and enhanced pollinator habitats ranging in size throughout Norcross. These new habitats include 10 new garden beds at Norcross Elementary School, 8 new beds at a local women's shelter, as well as 9 at-home gardens. The BCC enhanced existing school garden beds at Beaver Ridge Elementary School, as well as enhanced a vegetable garden and pollinator meadow at Summerour Middle School. Lastly, the BCC actively encouraged Norcross residents to plant pollinator gardens at home providing a garden registration and "Pollinator Friendly Garden" signs to 8 residents in 2021.



Pollinator habitat at Summerour Middle School



Pollinator Garden at Norcross Elementary School that was constructed on Earth Day.



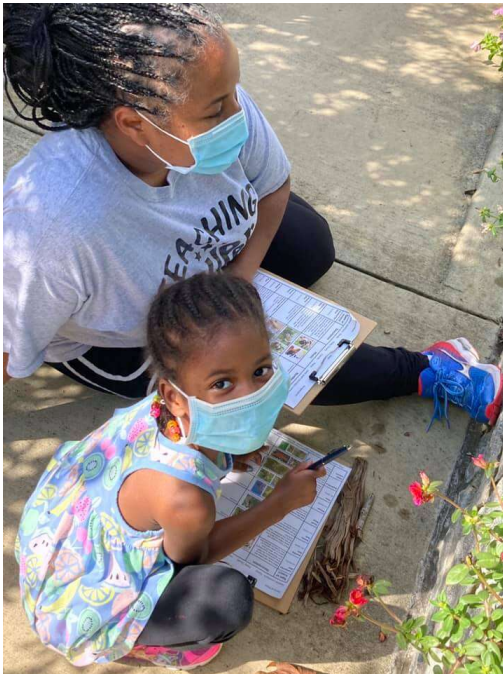
A registered at-home pollinator garden with a "Pollinator Friendly Garden" sign provided by the BCC

Education & Outreach

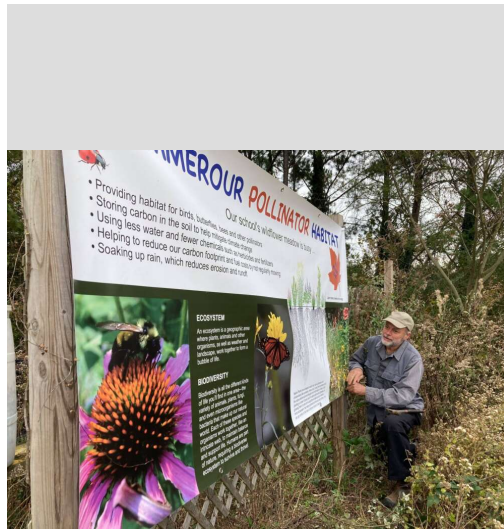
The City of Norcross supports a variety of pollinator conservation events in partnership with City commissions, local schools, churches, and organizations. These partners include the Sustainable Norcross Commission (SNC), Bee City Committee (BCC), Discovery Garden Park Board (DGP), Parks, Green Spaces, & Trails Commission (PG&T), Tree Preservation Board, the Gwinnett County School Board, Norcross Elementary School Garden Group, Victory World Church Gardening Group (VWC), Norcross Garden Club (NGC), UGA Extension, Norcross Community Market (NCM) and community volunteers. Below is a list of special and ongoing events facilitated by the City and community partners during 2021. Special Events: 1. BCC premiered the recording of a Pollinator Book Reading to students at Norcross Elementary and Beaver Ridge Elementary. 2. BCC participated in a documentary on Bee City USA produced by Maison Media 3. BCC, SNC, and VWC member and teacher, Jacquelyn Morgan, led 6 workshops covering composting, pruning,



building beds, garden prep, planting from seeds, and garden design for pollinators. 4. VWC constructed garden beds and organized garden workdays to maintain the plantings. 5. BCC provided pollinator education and free wildflower seeds to City staff during National Pollinator Week. 6. CC and SNC hosted National Pollinator Week at NCM with local partners deb-Bee's Honey and Ziparoos, offering free pollinator activity books, seeds, and starter seedlings. 7. The NGC and the NCM provided "Pollinator Census Kits" to students. 8. NGC, DGP, and BCC hosted the annual Bee Census through UGA Extension. 9. UGA Extension provide milkweed seeds for Norcross school gardens. 10. BCC added signage and maintained a Pollinator Meadow at Summerour Middle School. 11. DGP added signage and maintained a Pollinator garden at their community garden. 12. Jacquelyn Morgan and Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources installed rain barrels at Norcross Elementary School to water pollinator gardens. 13. NGC hosted "The Magnificent Monarch Butterfly" workshop on September 13, 2021. Ongoing: 14. BCC and SNC led regular educational activities at the Norcross schools pollinator gardens. 15. BCC expanded the At-Home Pollinator Garden Registration campaign to 8 residential sites. Residents received a "Pollinator Friendly Garden" sign. 16. BCC maintained public outreach and education virtually, via the City's official website, on social media, and through local publications. 17. BCC began planning a Pollinator Demo Garden at Norcross City Hall



Norcross kids counting pollinators at the annual Bee Census in August 2021



New signage installed at the Summerour Middle School pollinator habitat.



Bee City Committee and Sustainable Norcross Commissions members give away free seedlings, seeds, and activity books to community members during National Pollinator Week at the Norcross Community Market.



Policies & Practices

The City of Norcross abides by the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to “maintain healthy, attractive plants, maximize resistance to pests, and out-compete weeds.” The City achieves this goal through close monitoring of landscaped areas to identify problematic plants and pests before they become a larger, more challenging issue. Likewise, the City watches for beneficial plants and insects and encourages their growth. The City seeks to reduce the need for targeted pest management by “fostering healthy soil...pruning to remove infected or infested branches and shoots...mulching soil surface to reduce weeds” and remaining vigilant to disease and inspect prone plants as well as replacing those plants with “those better suited to the site and microclimate.” Through these preventative, non-pesticide methods, the City can protect both the targeted and surrounding area. These tactics can best be seen in Pinnacle Park, a naturalized green space in southeast Norcross. Once overrun with invasive species, the park now features all native, draught resistant plantings that require minimal maintenance, no fertilization, and support native pollinators and other wildlife. The area utilized by the public features native grasses and groundcover. The park also features sections of federally protected wetlands that are left untouched with multilingual, educational signage. Pinnacle Park and the landscaping strategies act as a model for other landscaping projects within the City.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [EXCERPTED FROM NORCROSS MTCE SPEC.pdf](#)

<https://www.norcrossga.net/DocumentCenter/View/4507/EXCERPTED-FROM-NORCROSS-MTCE-SPEC>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.norcrossga.net/BeeCity>





Multilingual signage at Pinnacle Park describing sustainable landscape practices that support pollinators.

Learn More

<https://www.norcrossga.net/2005/10418/Pollinators-Bee-City-USA>
sustainable@norcrossga.net

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





Pollinator Friendly Gardens signs are made by the committee and distributed to residents with registered pollinator gardens at their homes and businesses.

