

Bee City USA - Gastonia

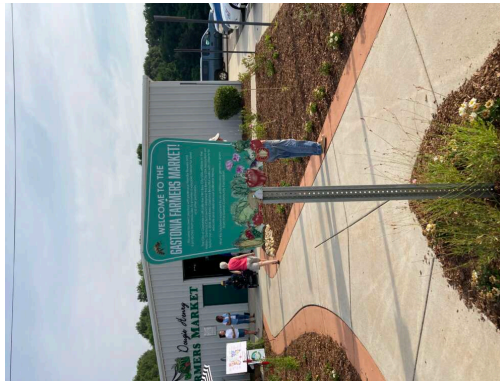
Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Our Keep Gastonia Beautiful Bee City USA Committee worked on three pollinator creations and enhancements. First, we installed educational raised beds at our Farmers Market that have items kids of all ages can touch, smell, taste (with parent's permission) to provide an interactive area. Next, we updated the front entrance to our Farmers Market to include only pollinator-friendly plantings. This helps us tie in the fact that the Farmers Market would not be operating if it weren't for bees pollinating crops. Our biggest project was the complete overhaul of a community garden. Raised beds were installed to allow the gardeners more ease when planting. Pollinator-friendly plants are planted around the sign and also in designated beds throughout the garden. We are excited to have this garden as it has provided us with a multitude of volunteer groups who were eager and willing to help us make the transformation happen. This garden is located in a food desert in the city and has provided educational spaces for small meetings to occur to talk about gardening and expanding the urban garden footprint.



Educational beds installed at our Farmers Market. These beds include herbs and also berries, lettuce and other edible items for hands on learning opportunities.



The entrance beds at the Gastonia Farmers Market were redone to include all pollinator friendly plantings.



Keep Gastonia Beautiful did a complete overhaul of the Highland Community Garden. Updating all the beds to raised beds for citizens to plant in. The bed around the sign and a selection of the beds are designated for pollinator friendly plantings and are tended to by all gardeners.

Education & Outreach

Our Bee City Committee hosted our annual Beetopia event which yielded around 350 participants. Featuring an interactive hive, "beezebo" and education/information/activities for all ages. We partner with the Gaston County Beekeepers Association for Bee school, which had 60 attendees. The Schiele Museum, which has 3 apiaries on their farm,



hosted a bug day which the Beekeepers Association presented at. We had various partnerships with the Beekeepers to present educational information at the Gaston County Library, various schools, daycares, and afterschool groups. Outreach was also provided by the Beekeepers, in the form of a workshop to a local community garden group.



Miss Polly Nator buzzed around our Beetopia event.



The Gaston County Beekeepers Associations "beezeebo" is always a hit at our Beetopia. It allows people to get up close and personal to our pollinator friends.



A beautiful bee inspired mural was painted at our Farmers Market to draw highlight to our Bee City USA affiliation. Pictured are the artists who volunteer over 270 hours to create this beautiful pop of color.

Policies & Practices

Hand weeding in all designated pollinator habitats and whenever possible in other planted areas. The use of observational scouting for pests and disease, use of organic control measures on initial pest/disease observations, and higher standard of disease tolerance when beneficial insects are observed. The soil is top-dressed with cow manure to reduce synthetic fertilizers. Organic pelletized chicken/cow manure is used as well. Staff tending to the beds, attending continuing education classes where IPM is a top priority.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf](https://www.cityofgastonia.com/images/keepgastoniabeautiful/Bee_City/2017-049_Mid-AtlanticPlantList_Dec2017_web-3page.pdf)

<https://gardeningwithcreekside.com/>



Learn More

<https://www.cityofgastonia.com/bee-city-usa.html>
juliannL@cityofgastonia.com

<https://www.facebook.com/keepgastoniabeautiful>
https://www.instagram.com/kgb_nc/



Keep Gastonia Beautiful Bee City Committee plus other board members at our September meeting.

