



Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education WASHINGTON, DC



EDUCATION & OUTREACH



DOEE installed informational signs and literature at local garden centers in the District so that homeowners and pesticide applicators could become better acquainted with honey bees and native pollinator species in the District and what they could do to protect them.

This report only summarizes activities that were led by the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) in an effort to further the promotion and protection of pollinators in the District. Throughout the year our partners at the DC Beekeepers Alliance, Department of Parks and Recreation, and District Department of Transportation also interact with citizens to do outreach and educate.

Bee City USA Committee chair and Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Washington, DC, DOEE, Natasha Garcia Anderson, gave several presentations in 2018:

- UDC Beekeeping short course on January 23 where she spoke to the class of potential beekeepers about the laws in regards to keeping honey bees in the District.
- Franciscan Monastery Beekeeping short course on February 17, spoke about the realities of keeping honey bees in the District and the laws that all beekeepers are required to follow.
- Rooting DC (March 3), an all-day event for gardeners in the District that are interested in sustainability. It regularly draws a crowd of around 1300 attendees. She talked about beekeeping in the District and promoting native pollinators.
- Green Zone Environmental (summer high school youth) Program whole session (July 17) about pollinators in the District and about what you can do to help them.

The DOEE hosted educational tables at:

- Rooting DC where DOEE gave out information about our Pollinator Protection Plan and the use of pesticides when pollinators are present.
- The National Pollinator Festival on June 22, an annual event on the National Mall, that draws crowds of around 500 or more. DOEE gave away pollinator seeds and information about pollinator protection in the District.
- DC Beekeepers Alliance's honey tent for the 3rd year and helped with the honey judging competition.
- The DC State Fair in September--always a good time to connect with residents.

Each Earth Day, the DOEE gives out thousands of packets of pollinator plant seeds at 17 different Metro stations throughout the District, our biggest giveaway of the year!



2018 was a first in the District on two fronts! It was the first year that DOEE hosted a honey bee colony on the 11th floor green roof and the first year that the District took part in the National Honey Bee Survey for pest and disease. Samples were collected from 19 apiaries in the District and sent to the University of Maryland. These results will give us a better understanding of what managed pollinators are up against in an urban environment.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



The DOEE has been working hard on creating meadows in rights of way and soon, solar arrays.

Work continued at the Irving Street clover leaf (see photo) and a project is underway at Suitland Parkway.

In addition, the meadow at Kingman Island continues to thrive and we hope to have a meadow in the near future at a solar array that is planned for the southeastern part of the District.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

We will be reorganizing our committee, but it is currently made up of District employees from different departments and the local beekeeping club.

The DOEE's pesticide branch administers the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan following guidelines in the District's Pollinator Protection Plan. Here is a link to the Pollinator Protection Plan for the District: [https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/d DOE/service_content/attachments/Pollinator %20v2.8.pdf](https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/d DOE/service_content/attachments/Pollinator%20v2.8.pdf)

We have a native species list and recommended species list for developers as part of our Green Area Ratio program. <https://doee.dc.gov/service/green-area-ratio-overview>

Plant lists are also used by our RiverSmart Homes program that assist residents with plantings for storm water management. <https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes-overview>

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List— <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1128481> and <https://doee.dc.gov/service/green-area-ratio-overview> and <https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes-overview>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List— To be developed

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan— <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1155891>

CONTACT US!

Committee—Washington, DC Bee City USA Committee

All Photos by Natasha Garcia Anderson.