

Bee City USA - Durham

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

City of Durham- The City of Durham's Sustainability roadmap, under "Natural Systems" specifies that the city will increase square footage of public and private land converted to habitat suitable for pollinators by 1000 square feet each year, achieved via partnerships with local groups and neighborhood organizations. Durham also has a goal of a city wide tree canopy of 55%. https://issuu.com/cityofdurhamnc/docs/codurham_sustain_bro_web/1?e=33941847/63100281 Durham Public Schools Hub Farm The Hub Farm has continued its "Volunteers in the Gardens" program throughout Covid, maintaining Covid safe practices. One hundred volunteers spend three hundred hours working in the pollinator and vegetable gardens. The Hub Farm welcomed ten Girl Scouts who planted an apiary garden and created nesting sites for native bees. The Hub Farm also partnered with the Rotary Club and Trees Durham in November to plant pollinator supporting trees such as Crabapple, Red Maple, Tupelo and Black Locust. Keep Durham Beautiful- Keep Durham Beautiful hosted socially distanced workdays at the Geer Street Pollinator gardens. Volunteers cleared weeds, planted and labeled pollinator attracting plants and mulched paths. Interfaith Food Shuttle- Throughout 2020 the Inter Faith Food Shuttle community garden was maintained and continued to provide fresh produce for local food banks. Additionally, the garden manager attended Beekeeping school! The Geer st Demonstration Garden added two new hives to the garden in the spring. Extra Terrestrial Projects (<http://extraterrestrialprojects.org>)- During Pollinator week, Extra Terrestrial Projects had 3 socially distant workdays at Prairie Island, a piedmont prairie landscape just south of Blackwell Street and Morehead Avenue, established and maintained by Extra Terrestrial Projects in collaboration with the Durham Parks and Recreation Department. It contains over 40 species of indigenous plants. The greenspace is composed of historical flora of Durham County. Volunteers planted over ten species of native pollinator attracting plants. Durham Ag Extension- The Ag extension hosted the Durham County Beekeeping Association Bee School in our office this year until they had to transfer to online due to COVID. They mentored 2 new beekeepers this year at Urban Community Agronomics. They conducted hands-on apiary management experiences for 18 students this year since they had to keep the groups very small (a major reduction from previous years). Briggs Community Garden has been running throughout COVID. Many community members volunteered helping to increase food production for emergency food boxes and weekly deliveries for elders or those who cannot leave home. Briggs Garden usually shut down in winter but the garden stayed open this year to produce frost tolerant crops for the deliveries. The garden has been a source of comfort and mental health for a lot of people during COVID. There are few things we can do safely with other people during a pandemic, thankfully gardening is one of them. Museum of Life and Science- Our landscaping team installed a new exhibit called "Wander Away" with ¼ acre of pollinator habitat.



Education & Outreach

The Durham Public Schools Hub Farm (<https://www.thehubfarm.org>)- Just before lockdown, The Hub Farm hosted “EcoBloom, a fifth grade field trip to explore the pollinator gardens and learn about the importance of pollinators. Sixty students spent 3 hours at the Hub Farm. The Durham County Beekeepers Association (<http://www.durhambeekeepers.org>) DCBA continued BeeKeeper School Online with 42 Attendees. During 2020 DCBA continued to hold online monthly meetings and hosted limited attendance visits to the organization’s apiaries. At monthly meetings, featured speakers present on various bee related topics. The DCBA also offered support in capturing and relocating honeybee swarms during the swarming season. Burt’s Bees (<https://www.burtsbees.com>)- Burt’s Bees awarded multiple grants in 2020 to coalition partners and others in support of pollinator habitat and education. Keep Durham Beautiful, Trees Durham, Extra Terrestrial, Durham County and Durham Parks Foundation all received grants in support of their projects. Burt’s Bees continue to have an observation hive at their headquarters at American Tobacco Campus where passersby can see a honeybee hive at work. Although Covid prevented in- person visits to Burt Shavitz’s cabin at the headquarters during Pollinator Week, Burtsbees.com has a virtual tour available. HoneyGirl Meadery (honeygirlmeadery.com)- During Covid, Honeygirl Meadery has worked to keep their tasting room safely open, pivoting to online sales and other opportunities for sharing their delicious mead. Honeygirl Meadery was featured in Our State magazine with a beautiful story and photo shoot. <https://www.ourstate.com/hive-honey-bees-photo-essay/> HoneyGirl Meadery was also awarded Our State magazines coveted 2020 Made in NC in the Drinks category for their Barrel Aged Wildflower Mead featuring NC honey.

https://www.ourstate.com/madeinncc/2020-winners/?fbclid=IwAR0m60Bdg7NG0yChgziMZp9gGlvDoedPKMZVCNiR_QIC2NzEMNaJNO4w17Y Toxic Free NC (<https://toxicfreenc.org>)- In April Toxic Free NC hosted a virtual celebration on Earth Day. A virtual one-hour chat about how to protect pollinators featured a local beekeeper, shared resources, and information about advocacy and actions you can take to reduce bee-harmful pesticides. Toxic Free NC also continued to promote a calendar of virtual events with their various partners through the year. In November, Toxic Free NC partnered with the Durham Housing Authority to distribute pollinator attracting, native & indoor phytoremediating plants.

Throughout the year Toxic Free NC offered 5 Pollinator Protector video newsletters featuring different NC pollinator “heroes” and pollinator “yarden” info. Bee Downtown (<https://www.bee-downtown.com>)- In response to Covid, Bee Downtown created an entire virtual world full of visits to their hives as well as leadership training resources and pollinator resources. In the first week over 400 Durhamites visited “the HIVE” Durham Central Park

(<https://durhamcentralpark.org>)- During National Pollinator Week June 22, 2020 - June 28, 2020 Durham Central Park offered Pollinator Bingo! In recognition of Durham as a Bee City residents were invited “At your leisure, and following physical distancing and face mask mandates, come to the gardens at DCP with the bingo cards posted to this event page (one for adults, one for youth) and post your pictures of what you or the young people in your life discover.” Ellerbe Creek Watershed Academy (<https://www.ellerbecreek.org>)- During the fall ECWA led a virtual Watershed Academy for residents. The Academy included a module on Pollinator plants and why they are important. Students learned about pollination, pollinators and how to choose plants to attract pollinators to their space. NC Museum of Life and Science- Pollinator Week: Virtual Storytime (6/22) -Lab@Home Pollinator Week special "Pollinator Power" (6/24) -Pollinator



Week: Livestream (6/26) - This video with Toxic Free NC We also did plenty of Camps@Home behind the scenes programs the included tours of the Pollinator Garden and hives.

Policies & Practices

Toxic Free NC- In February, Toxic Free NC traveled to Washington DC and lobbied 18 legislators for support of the Saving America's Pollinators Act (TFNC) Toxic Free NC continued their policy advocacy through their “Just and Sustainable Agriculture program” with a focus on pollinator and biodiversity protection. Locally, Toxic Free NC distributed over 110 “Spray Free Zone” signs. The spray free zone sign program is specific to mosquito barrier sprays and raises awareness about the toxicity of barrier sprays to bees. This past year when gardeners in Durham and elsewhere received compost tainted with persistent herbicides, Toxic Free NC facilitated a state level investigation and coordinated a panel discussion about persistent herbicides in compost at the 2020 Carolina Farm stewards Sustainability conference. Keep Durham Beautiful- In collaboration with Durham Hub Farms and Durham Public Schools grounds department KDB hosted a biodiverse bank planting workshop. Key goals of the workshop were to introduce DPS groundskeeping staff to planting for pollinators on school grounds, reducing mowing and pesticide use.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/SoutheastMixedForestrx5FINAL.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.mellowmarshfarm.com>

Learn More

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