

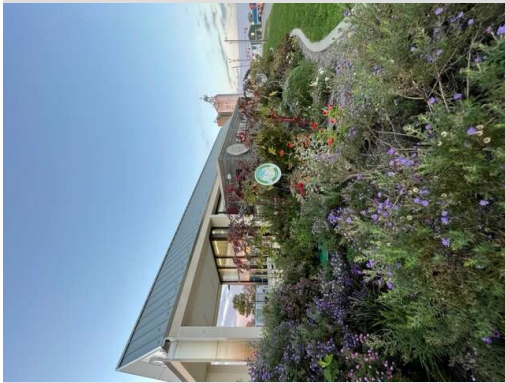
# Bee City USA - Carlinville

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Carlinville FFA pollinator garden was established on the property of the school district. It was planned, planted and maintained by students. The plants were purchased through our local native plant greenhouse. The United Methodist Church and its members designed and planted a pollinator pocket as a memorial to a local science teacher and also to mark the spot where a speech was given by President Abraham Lincoln. 19 large planters on the city square were replanted to add color appeal and more diversity to the pollinator perennials that were planted in 2020. The Carlinville Plaza expanded their pollinator gardens to include the REO Truck Pollinator Garden. This garden was first covered with mulch to kill unwanted grass and weeds. New soil was brought in to establish the boundaries of the garden and to elevate the location where the antique truck would be placed. Twenty native plants and shrubs were planted in the REO Truck Garden in August of 2021. The MJM Electric Cooperative Community Pollinator Garden was designed by local Master Gardeners, MJM Staff and "Make Carlinville Beautiful Volunteers", who are also members of BEE City USA, Carlinville. A large sign was purchased and installed before we broke ground. The first phase of this ongoing community project was completed by October 2021. The garden will be expanded over the next 2-3 years until it is completely planted as habitat for pollinating insects and other wildlife. Walking trails are a part of the design and we expect the local schools and environmental groups to use this space for field experiences and education. At the five city welcome signs and school grounds, milkweed is sown, annually to help the spread. Each of those areas are trimmed and watered as needed and checked for pests during the growing season as are all plantings. The 6 new trees that were planted at the Primary and Elementary School were mulched and watered throughout the growing season. They were also labeled so that school children will be able to learn what kinds of new trees are on the property. Each of these 6 trees have been adopted by a classroom of students who will care for them as they grow. We enhanced "Granny Wilson's Garden", which is a combination of vegetables, herbs, native trees, native shrubs, and food source perennials (for pollinating insects) to include; cucumbers, oregano, heirloom peppers and tomatoes. The vegetables are given to the local food pantry, weekly. The Intermediate school students helped maintain their new vegetable garden and grew sweet potatoes, onions, tomatoes, sunflowers and peppers. They used the food during the summer school session.

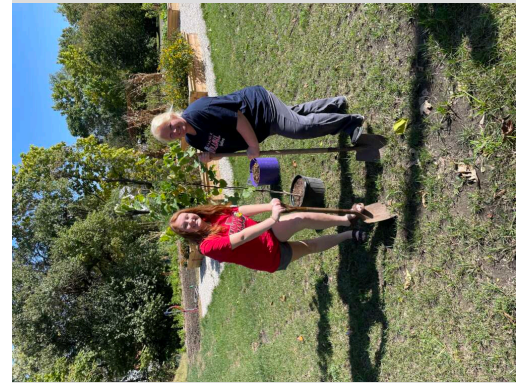




New England Asters, Common Milkweed, Mountain Mint, Bee Balm, Autumn Viburnum are among the 150 pollinator plants, trees and shrubs that beautify the landscape of the Amtrak Train station in Carlinville, Illinois. The garden is three years old and is the pride of our community.



Monarch caterpillars dining in the "Administrators Garden" at Carlinville High School near the Carlinville High School



A native Red Bud tree was donated to our neighboring town's community garden and environmental project, "Grow Gillespie". Planting the right tree in the right place has become a priority, especially when they are a part of a Memorial in an environmentally friendly garden.

## Education & Outreach

Discussion began in January during a Bee City USA, Carlinville Zoom meeting. The committee agreed to ask volunteers to create a general plan for the year. The ideas, sharing and organization for activities began immediately. We agreed to "kick off" our activities and outreach beginning April 17, 2021 instead of highlighting one week in June to promote healthy pollinator habitat conservation and expansion. The overarching goal to expand the Earth Week programs we delivered in 2020 became the major focus. Volunteers brainstormed a variety of activities that would be developed and soon, the MJM Community Pollinator Garden was born! The local rural electric cooperative (MJM) contacted us asking for a community collaboration to help them install a 3/4 acre pollinator plot. We are thrilled to be involved in this multi year project that is to be phased in over the next three years. After months of planning and research, zoom conferences, brainstorming, plant searching, and price checking, the MJM Board of Directors approved our design and planting program. Staff from MJM and Bee City volunteers set a date to kick off the project and the Earth Day/Earth Week activities for 2022. The ground breaking event (see photo below) was attended by City Council members, the local Mayor of Carlinville and a tour was provided for our State Senator, who soon re-landscaped her gardens with a major focus on pollinator plants. This community garden celebrates the vision of the local Bee City Committee, expertise of the XERCES Society and support of the MJM Rural Electric Cooperative. Native plants were donated and purchased through a local supplier and Master



Gardeners. An aesthetically designed walking trail was laid out by Master Gardeners and other volunteers. The trail allows community members to walk through the gardens. The trail was sewn with eco- friendly grass seed. Phase one of the 3/4 acre plot is complete. That same afternoon, the second activity of the week took place. The Carlinville High School Cross Country Team led a "PLOGGING" activity (picking up trash while jogging) at Beaver Dam State Park, which is located just outside the city of Carlinville. The team retrieved a pickup truck load of garbage that would have otherwise clogged streams or gotten into the ecosystem in a variety of ways. Other educational events were held at multiple locations during the Earth Day/Earth week outreach. The Carlinville School District participated at all levels and all physical locations, highlighting the mission of the XERCES Society in a variety of ways. Other education partners, businesses and civic organizations participated as follows; Carlinville Primary School, Carlinville Middle School/High School, Lewis and Clark Community College, Blackburn College, the downtown business community, Beaver Dam State Park, Carlinville Park District, Tree City USA, Carlinville, and the University of Illinois Extension Service, and Bee City, USA, Carlinville volunteers (who have adopted the title/tag line of "Make Carlinville Beautiful"). Throughout the week, the collaborations continued with local teachers; the Carlinville City Council; Carlinville Retired Teachers Association, Tree City USA, Carlinville; Trees Forever; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Macoupin County 4-H Clubs; Carlinville High School Cross Country team; Carlinville FFA and Construction classes; and the Carlinville High School Interact club (a youth sponsored organization of the Rotary International). These efforts were organized by Bee City USA, Carlinville ,but broad leadership was complimented by other local organizations. A wide range of environmentally friendly topics were presented by High School and College students, Master Gardeners, Horticulturists, and other professionals from environmental related organizations. The presentations included; The Need for More Pollinator Habit; Planting the Right Pollinator Plants for Local Insects", Trees as pollinators; Bats as pollinators; Pest management and the Dangers of Using Chemicals to Control Them; Why Plant the "No Till" way, Honeybee Keeping and Production, Native bees and Their Needs; Why Be a Bee City"? Elementary students designed and painted an environmentally friendly outdoor mural with the assistance of our local "Imagine Rural Arts Association". The mural was installed and unveiled in the Carlinville downtown business area in a prominent location near our historical Million Dollar Courthouse where it is seen daily by tourists and the local community. All Carlinville Elementary school students and their teachers participated in educational presentations, art, readings, story telling and crafts. Because of the Covid pandemic, activities were outdoors and students were distanced appropriately. Each classroom teacher was provided XERCES society handouts. Classes rotated through four 15 minute presentations. (see photo's) In addition to the presentations, four new native trees were donated by a retired school administrator and planted at the Primary school. Two others were planted at the Intermediate School. Directions on how to care for each native tree, including their growing habits, nutritional needs, individual care were given in handouts to specific classrooms who will care for the trees. High School students, ( members of the Interact Club ) presented to the public on the value of bats as pollinators, and other environmental topics based on their review of XERCES Society handouts. The presentations were attended by members of the City Council, business community, Mayor of Carlinville, school administrators and the community, representatives from Lewis and Clark Community College and Blackburn College. XERCES handouts were also distributed to all attendees. The High School construction class and FFA Club built bat houses that were distributed to residences in each ward in the city of Carlinville. This project was supported by generous grant donations. FFA students presented and provided information on the value of bats in the community and



their role in pollination. Milkweed, asters, mountain mint, conflowers, and other important nectar sources for pollinators were planted on the High School grounds in 2019, 2020 and 2021 by students and volunteers to support the facts learned and shared by presentations. The new Carlinville FFA pollinator pocket was established on the School District campus in 2021. The area highlights the FFA organizational outdoor signage and showcases a student led project for pollinators. The main School District Campus now has 7 separate pollinator pockets that help attract native bees and support their need to eat often and not fly far to do so. The Carlinville Middle School also hosted an activity to highlight the importance of pollinators and their pollinator pockets at two outdoor planting sites. The Intermediate school summer teachers and students were assisted by community volunteers to plant tomatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, sunflowers and pumpkins. They were planted just outside the school in the playground area for easy access. The raised beds were built by students and staff. Students and teachers cared for the vegetables which were used on the school lunch menu. The setting provided hands on activities that promote growing food for consumption and for insects and other wildlife. This was the first planting and harvest of what will be part of an "Outdoor Classroom" where students will study, write, grow, act, play music, sing, draw, paint , create, exercise and imagine, with a cross curriculum focus on the environment. The area now has an outdoor building, sidewalks and basic structure that has been put in place by high school students in construction classes. Plans are being made to expand the Outdoor classroom in the spring of 2022 where fruit and nut trees, berry bushes and other pollinators will be planted on the school grounds. Bee City USA, Carlinville also hosted a tour of a local honeybee keeper and producers farm. The public was invited and tours of a nearby pollinator plot was also a part of the experience. It was attended by Bee City Committee members, the public and visitors from a neighboring village. Bee City also hosted a public presentation on the city square, on the value of bats as pollinators. The presentation was made by a Blackburn College student. who has initiated a project on campus called; "The Blackburn College Bat Initiative". This group will help provide places for bats to roost and track their movements. Attendees entered a drawing to win bat houses made by local students. Blackburn College was also presented with a bat house from Bee City USA, Carlinville to go along with their intent to install several more on the college grounds. Volunteers also assisted the Macoupin County Master Gardeners in weeding and planting at the pollinator gardens on the Macoupin County Courthouse grounds, the WW2 Memorial, and the First Responders Memorial. A major new area was fully landscaped on the Macoupin County grounds in September, 2021, pollinator plants were a part of the project. As the garden was planted, Monarch butterflies were feeding on newly planted coneflowers. Volunteers also assist the Macoupin County Master Gardeners in maintaining a native garden, and a herb and flower garden at the Macoupin County Historical Society grounds. Members grow and share pollinator plants to fund raise at the annual plant sale. Volunteers continue maintaining "Granny Wilsons Garden" which includes over 100 native plants pollinator trees, and shrubs that were planted in 2020. One section of the garden is planted with vegetables and serves as a produce source for the local food pantry. The local Park District continues to plant native trees, annually, and expands pollinator habitat at all city parks. All volunteers work together on a variety of projects that support pollinator habitat. The Park District schedules work days and our community volunteers participate in removing invasive species. As the invasive plants are removed, native trees and healthy plants that are good for the environment are re-appearing and becoming dominant. The Park District is a strong partner in all of these activities and continues to research new ways to mow less area and provide educational signage that encourage the public to use the nature and tree trails. Planting pollinators is a part of their mission. Two Memorial Pollinator Gardens were recently approved by the City Council and the



Trustees of the United Methodist Church. Each garden memorializes the life of individuals and their proactive local leadership in environmental education and outreach. The location of these pollinator pockets (small gardens) is important to the cause as they are each in high profile locations within our city. Macoupin County 4-H members, Carlinville High School Cross Country Team, Interact Club members and Blackburn College Sustainability Club members host "Plogging" days throughout the year, not just during Earth Day/Earth Week outreach. Plogging (picking up trash while jogging) has become an activity that is youth led and solves a major problem while offering opportunity for young people to lead and participate in civic duties. These youth events are self organized but promoted and assisted by Bee City USA, Carlinville volunteers and the community. The Carlinville Library hosts a variety of environmental activities and a wide range of topics. A cooperative effort between a local business, Bee City Committee and the Library provided a topic free seed give away, a pollinator bingo game and other activities to engage local youth of all ages to be involved. The Carlinville City Council and Mayor introduced an original proclamation in 2021 that goes beyond the request to highlight pollinators for one week per year. The focus is now to "stay focused", all year long. This speaks highly of their support of the community wide effort in addressing climate change at the local level, taking seriously the need for conservation and the establishment of new habitat for insects. We have fully integrated the mission of Bee City USA in Carlinville, Illinois.



Ground breaking of the MJM Community Pollinator Garden, April 17, 2022.



Volunteers using the "lasagna method" of no till planting of native shrubs and plants.



Carlinville Elementary students learn what it takes to be the 1st Bee City in Illinois. We discussed nectar, habitat, pest control and personal responsibility.

## Policies & Practices

Our site stewards (volunteers) maintain all pollinator gardens in the city and we use no chemicals. If a volunteer determines there is an essential need to use a chemical, it is first approved by the chair of our Bee City USA, Carlinville chair, and this is a rare situation that is handled by a trained individual, after dark when no wind is present.

### Integrated Pest Management Plan:

### Recommended Native Plant List:



<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.carlinvillebees.org/resource-links>



Volunteers take a break from removing invasive honeysuckle from Carlinville's largest city park. No chemicals were used but within a few months many native species returned to the park that had not been visible for years.

Learn More

[www.carlinvillebees.org](http://www.carlinvillebees.org)  
[marytinder1@gmail.com](mailto:marytinder1@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Carlinville-Bees-103262004436279>





PIC•COLLAGE

"Make Carlinville Beautiful" implies that we, as a community, want to do what we can as volunteers to improve the environment and lifestyle of our residents, and we do just that, together!

