

Bee City USA - Carrboro

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Town received a grant from the North Carolina Urban Forest Council's Legacy Tree Fund in 2020 to plant native pollinator-friendly trees and shrubs to restore the riparian buffer of an intermittent stream in the Town's Henry "Hank" Anderson III Community Park. After the trees were planted and the area seeded with a native pollinator-friendly seed mix in late 2020, Town Public Works staff planted 600 live stakes along the banks of the stream in February 2021. Staff chose pollinator-friendly native woody species for this project. In addition, the Town held invasive species volunteer removal events throughout 2021 to remove invasive vines such as wisteria, privet, and English ivy from Carrboro's Wilson Park and Henry "Hank" Anderson III Community Park in order to improve habitat for native species. Town staff also worked with a resident volunteer to replant a rain garden in a roadside right-of-way. On October 5, 2021, the Town Code was updated to allow residents to plant managed natural landscapes on their property. Managed natural landscapes offer critical wildlife habitat, result in decreased use of petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides, more effectively capture stormwater runoff, and reduce the heat island effect.



Riparian area restoration at Carrboro's Henry "Hank" Anderson III Community Park through a grant from the North Carolina Urban Forest Council



Pictures of the Carrboro Public Works staff planting live stakes as part of the riparian restoration project



The Carrboro High School Football Team removed invasive privet from Henry "Hank" Anderson III Community Park in Fall 2021

Education & Outreach

Mayor Lydia Lavelle proclaimed June 21-27, 2021 as "Pollinator Week," in Carrboro, encouraging all Carrboro residents to reflect upon the vital role that pollinators play in sustaining our natural environment and join in the efforts to create pollinator-friendly habitats. On June 30, 2021, the Town offered a free virtual showing of the film, "A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee", a film by Day's Edge Productions, produced in partnership with the Xerces



Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Endangered Species Chocolate. The film tells the story of the rusty-patched bumble bee, the first bee species in the continental U.S. to be listed on the Endangered Species List. Rusty-patched bumble bees once ranged in grasslands throughout the east and upper midwestern U.S., but have declined by 87% in the last 20 years as a result of habitat loss, disease, intensive farming, pesticide use, and climate change. In previous years, the Town has hosted an in-person pollinator movie screening. However, due to COVID-19 precautions, the Town decided to host a virtual screening this year, where residents could view the film remotely through one of the Town's social media accounts. To celebrate National Pollinator Week and in conjunction with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, the Town held an outreach event and milkweed seed giveaway at the Carrboro Farmers' Market in July 2021.



Attend a Free Virtual Screening of A Ghost in the Making

Wednesday, June 30 at 3 p.m. on Town of Carrboro YouTube

You are invited to celebrate National Pollinator Week in Carrboro and attend a free virtual showing of *A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee*, a film by Day's Edge Productions, produced in partnership with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Endangered Species Chocolate.

There are more than 4,000 native bee species in North America, including the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*). The rusty-patched bumble bee pollinates wildflowers and crops such as apples and cranberries.

Rusty-patched bumble bees once ranged in grasslands throughout the east and upper midwestern U.S., but have declined by 87% in the last 20 years as a result of habitat loss, disease, intensive farming, pesticide use, and climate change. Due to this decline, the rusty-patched bumble bee was the first bee species in the continental U.S. to be listed on the Endangered Species List.

News Flash for a Virtual Screening of the Film, "A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee"

Milkweed Seed giveaway at the Carrboro Farmers' Market

Milkweed Seed giveaway at the Carrboro Farmers' Market

Policies & Practices

The Town of Carrboro's integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) policy and program are a combined comprehensive approach that gives priority to the prevention and management of pests including insects, weeds, and plant disease, through a proactive strategy. This strategy involves the thorough examination of all pest control methods available, starting with the least toxic methods first if feasible. The policy reduces the environmental health risk to municipal employees, visitors, and Town residents. It helps protect the environment and results in greater safety of public grounds, buildings, and sports fields, reduced exposure to chemical pesticides by those engaged in pest management, and acts as an example to residents and others.



Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Town of Carrboro Updated IPM Policy 2017.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.townofcarrboro.org/778/Landscaping-and-Plants>

LEAST TOXIC INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) AND PLANT HEALTH CARE (PHC)

Town of Carrboro

IPM Policy Adopted March 2, 1999 (Updated April 2017)

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Cover Page for Carrboro's Least Toxic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Plant Health Care (PHC) Policy

Learn More





Members of Carrboro's Bee City USA Committee, the Environmental Advisory Board, at a virtual meeting. Environmental Advisory Board members have been meeting virtually since May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

