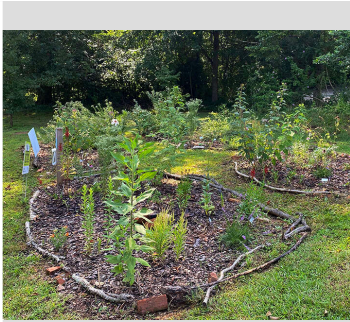


Bee City USA - Decatur

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

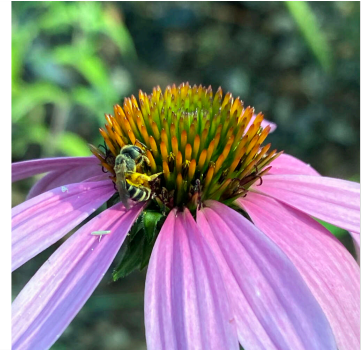
Supervised by pollinator habitat coordinator Claudia McDavid, Beecatur's regularly-scheduled volunteer work days continued at our two city pollinator habitats during 2021. With help from committee members, community members, and volunteers from the DeKalb County Master Gardeners, work days were held March, April, May, June, September and October. During these times, tasks like weeding, mulching, planting bed creation and plant installation took place.



Decatur's Church Street Pollinator Habitat



Neighbors chat during a Meet & Greet at Decatur's Willow Lane Pollinator Habitat.



Banded sweat bee on cone flower at Decatur's Willow Lane Pollinator Habitat.

Education & Outreach

Presentations/Talks: A powerpoint presentation/talk titled "Meet Your Native Bees" was presented three separate times during 2021 – once, virtually (co-hosted with Wylde Center as part of their Lunch & Learn series), and twice at in-person events hosted by Woodlands Garden volunteers and staff, and the membership of Paces Garden Club. Three webinars titled "Our Native Bees (And Why Beekeepers Should Care!)" introducing participants to native bees found in Georgia, their biology, importance, and how to identify them were also presented to local beekeeping associations (at monthly meetings hosted by the Dunwoody, Metro Atlanta, and Eastern Piedmont clubs) via Zoom during 2021. In May, a virtual classroom visit and presentation titled "Busy, Buzzy Bees" took place hosted by Clairemont Elementary School teacher Ms. Latson for the school's kindergarten classes. In February, chairperson Peter Helfrich was invited to participate as a panelist in a Xerces-hosted Zoom webinar titled, "Community Solutions to Pesticide Use." In September, he spoke to four classes of middle school students via Google Meet about the importance of pollinators and environmental activism at the community level. **Tabling:** In spite of the pandemic, Beecatur was still able to participate in a number of public tabling events throughout the year – twice at Oakhurst Farmers Market, at Woodlands Garden fall native plant sale, at Beech



Hollow Wildflower Farms nursery, at Panola Mountain State Park’s annual NatureFest, and at a Meet & Greet for the Upper Superior community that is home to the city’s Willow Lane Pollinator Habitat. City Engagement: Chairperson Peter Helfrich and city liaison Kay Evanovich presented their annual update to the city commission in February. In August, a presentation was given to the city’s Environmental Sustainability Committee making the case for adoption of a formal Integrate Pest Management program. Pollinator Habitat Maintenance: Supervised by pollinator habitat coordinator Claudia McDavid, Beecatur’s regularly-scheduled volunteer work days continued at our two city pollinator habitats during 2021. With help from committee members, community members, and volunteers from the Dekalb County Master Gardeners, work days were held March, April, May, June, September and October. During these times, tasks like weeding, mulching, planting bed creation and plant installation took place. These tasks were largely self-funded via fund-raising efforts like our ongoing Give A Gift That Grows Program. Other Community Outreach: We continue to have homeowners enroll in our Pollinator Pledge program, as well as purchase our yard signs warning of the dangers of residential mosquito spraying. We send out a monthly email newsletter to 200+ subscribers detailing Beecatur news and activities like presentations, talks, workshops, events, volunteer opportunities, etc. And, of course, we do the same via our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Pollinator habitat coordinator Claudia McDavid at a community Meet & Greet at Decatur's Willow Lane Pollinator Habitat.



Tableting and answering questions at Oakhurst Farmers Market in March.



Policies & Practices

A Sustainable Landscaping Procedures policy for city-owned property is described within the city's larger sustainability plan. The policy outlines guidelines for plant selection, water conservation, soil preparation, and care and landscape maintenance. It stresses following Integrated Pest Management guidelines and reducing pesticide use. We continue to maintain our pollinator habitats without any chemical controls of any sort.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [NATIVE PLANT LISTS _beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists)

<https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-lists>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [NATIVE PLANT GROWERS _beecatur.pdf](https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers)

<https://www.beecaturga.com/native-plant-growers>

What is an Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

IPM uses **diverse methods of pest control – paired with monitoring – to reduce unnecessary pesticide applications** (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, etc.)

- A decision-making process
- Proactive
- Multiple tools
- Gives preference to safest control methods
- Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed
- Targeted

Screenshot from presentation given to the city's Environmental Sustainability Board.

Learn More

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