

# Bee City USA - Elm Grove

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Shortly after obtaining our Bee City USA designation, our committee worked with a local high school group named SEED, or Students Encouraging Environmental Dedication, to establish 2 large perennial beds (350sq feet and 400 sq feet) at our village park with native plants. Over the last 2 years, we have met nearly weekly to mulch, weed, and transplant more native plants into each of the beds. There are a total of nearly 20 different varieties of native plants between the two beds. We obtained Monarch Waystation certification for these beds as well. We also worked with parents and students of a local elementary school to help weed, refresh, and mulch an overgrown Monarch Waystation. The committee worked with a local storyteller and film-maker to create a video of the planned prescribed burn around our village pond that is planted with all native grasses and perennials. It was uploaded to our village website to help explain the process. Our committee started an Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) that met every Sunday at 11am, weather permitting. We worked to help eradicate invasive species from our village park which is nearly 78 acres. As the season progressed, we turned our attention to a flood plain managed area called Veteran's Park that had been seeded with native plants many years previously. Paths were cut through the 1.8 acres encouraging residents to walk through and appreciate the native plants up close. With the help of numerous village residents, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, we worked to help eliminate invasive species. Species we addressed included, but were not limited to canada thistle, garlic mustard, teasel, Queen Anne's lace, Dame's rocket, and purple loosestrife.



Village residents participating in one of the weekly Invasive Species Task Force sessions



Our committee prepping one of the large native planting beds at our village park



Another of the many weekly meetings (Sundays at 11am!) at our public park to work on removal of invasive species, this time it was teasel



## Education & Outreach

Our committee hosted a native plant sale on June 5th, 2021 selling 488 native plants to our community. We had a milkweed only sale on 8/21/21 selling a total of 88 plants of 4 different varieties of *Asclepias*. This was in conjunction with the “Monarch Map” we created whereby any village homeowner growing milkweed could get an orange dot on their property. We also sold 50 *Camassia scilloides* bulbs throughout the year, the only bulb native to our area which also happens to be endangered. We hosted an Earth and Arbor Day celebration on April 24th, 2021 which included informational booths about a variety of topics. We chalked facts about a variety of topics (bees, pollinators, trees, birds, Earth day, and Arbor day) around the one mile path that goes around our village pond. In conjunction we held a native shrub sale selling 150 barefoot shrubs. Our tree sale sold 105 native trees in 2020-21 and 40 native trees in 2021-22. On Feb 5th, our Friends of the Library Children’s Program held an informational session on honeybees for elementary aged children. Numerous articles were written throughout the year in our local print publications on a variety of topics related to pollinators. We offered for sale below cover price three different books throughout the year—one of native plants of Wisconsin by Lynn Steiner, and two others by entomologist Doug Tallamy to help assist residents of our community in making changes to their personal property and landscaping. We started a Book Club that met 7 times per year over the past two years to discuss books related to our mission, including Paige Embry’s *Our Native Bees*. A Winter Lecture Series was initiated in Sept 2021 in which we had local speakers that we hosted for 6 separate lectures. The lectures topics for this year’s series included trees, composting, edible landscaping, native companion plantings, bird friendly gardening, and pollinator friendly gardening. We partnered with our local library and a gardening club for a local gardening celebrity, Melinda Meyers.



## Winter Lecture Series

Elm Grove Beautification Committee

- Sept 13th, 2021 **Jason Riemer**  
American Tree Service  
**Top 10 Problems (And Solutions!)  
for your Elm Grove Trees**
- Oct 12th, 2021 **Alec LePoidevin**  
Fresh Roots, LLC  
**Intro into Edible Landscaping**
- Jan, 2022 **Ryan Laswell**  
Waste Not, LLC  
**Composting: Everything You Need to Know**
- Feb 17th, 2022 **Danielle Bell**  
Native Roots, LLC  
**Native Companion Plantings**
- Mar 15th, 2022 **Vicki Piaskowski**  
Retired International Coordinator for  
Birds Without Borders-*Aves Sin Fronteras*  
**Making Your Yard Bird-Friendly**
- April 2022 **Melinda Myers**  
Nationally known gardening expert

### Mark Your Calendars Now!

6:30pm  
Elm Grove Village Hall O'Neill Room



A line-up of our Winter Lecture Series

One of the photos from a lecture

One of our native plant sales

## Policies & Practices

The Village of Elm Grove, in both the parks and all rights of way, has decreased the total square footage of turf grass. This action aids in reducing the area that routinely receives pesticide application or requires weekly mowing. Our village forester is required to maintain his Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection which has a focus on assuring the implementation of Integrative Pest Management practices.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Pollinator Protection Program 6-28-21.pdf](#)

<https://elmgrovewi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3962/Pollinator-Protection-Program-6-28-21>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native plant list for Bee City.pdf](#)

<https://elmgrovewi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3363/Native-Plant-List>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native plant supplier for Bee City.pdf](#)

<https://elmgrovewi.org/DocumentCenter/View/3364/Native-Plant-Supplier-List?bidId=>



Learn More

<https://elmgrovi.org/294/Beautification-Committee>

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