

Bee City USA - Vandalia

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The city did additional tree and plant plantings in center of several community streets and roadside.



Community event at City Art Park



Flower gardens at Historical Society Rotary Bridge



Second view of gardens at Rotary Bridge

Education & Outreach

We hosted two events at the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler, and participated with another local non-profit at least 12 additional times. All events open to the community.



Elementary students at Historical society event



Co-hosted event of Historical Society and SummerFest 2021 event



Flower gardens at Historical Society



Policies & Practices

Integrated Pest Management Strategy/ Pollinator Friendly Habitat Planning Department of Parks and Recreation – City of Vandalia, Ohio

- Select staff are licensed in turf, landscape ornamental pest and weed, industrial vegetation and general pest control.
- Install healthy plant material suited for our climate and micro- climate specific needs. Proper plant care: installation, watering, fertilizing, pruning, etc., which eliminates or greatly reduces plant stressors that require additional attention.
- Know the plant. What to expect the healthy plant to look like, growth characteristics.
- If a problem is observed refer to the six-step process of IPM: 1. Identify pest damage and responsible pest 2. Learn pest and host life cycles and biology 3. Monitor or sample for pest populations 4. Establish action threshold 5. Choose appropriate combination of management tactics 6. Evaluate and record results
- A couple examples of the IPM process for us: Bagworm process – observe, do nothing at this time, hand pulling, chemical control or if too late than monitor for potential damage the next year and treat as needed. Spider Mite on Dwarf Burning Bush (*euonymus alatus compactus*) process – observe, monitor, white paper test, threshold met then blast with water spray to knock mites from leaves and repeat three times at 2-day intervals. Treatment with a miticide as a last resort. No controls have been needed since we altered our pruning time earlier in the spring (less stress to the plant going into hot/dry summer months when pruning is completed earlier in the season. Late May pruning instead of late June / July.
- If the plant pest concern is only a ‘cosmetic’ problem, not affecting the overall long-term health of the plant. We will not proceed with further action.

Turfgrass

- Broadleaf weed control is applied when the plant to be controlled is not in bloom. Minimal weed control on turfgrass with some areas never receiving a chemical control product.
- We mow at a 3-inch height and attempt to mow often, removing a third or less of the grass blade. This aids in creating a thicker turf stand which helps suppress weed seed germination and growth.
- We use a variety of grass types and varieties to aid in minimizing potential damage from disease and insects thereby minimizing or eliminating our need for chemical control.

Planting and Landscape Bed Maintenance: When possible and appropriate we use native plant material and use plants with minimal or no known pest problems. When possible, plants are used that are of benefit to pollinators. Bed design incorporates plant materials to maximize cover over the bed space. As the plants grow less and less mulch and weed control products are needed.

Wildflower Areas: Use a seed mixture specified for the Midwest. Recognize and control, when very young, invasive plant species such as honeysuckle and wild pear with a non- selective herbicide applied to the target weed prior to or after wild flower bloom period. We mow our areas in mid to late winter.

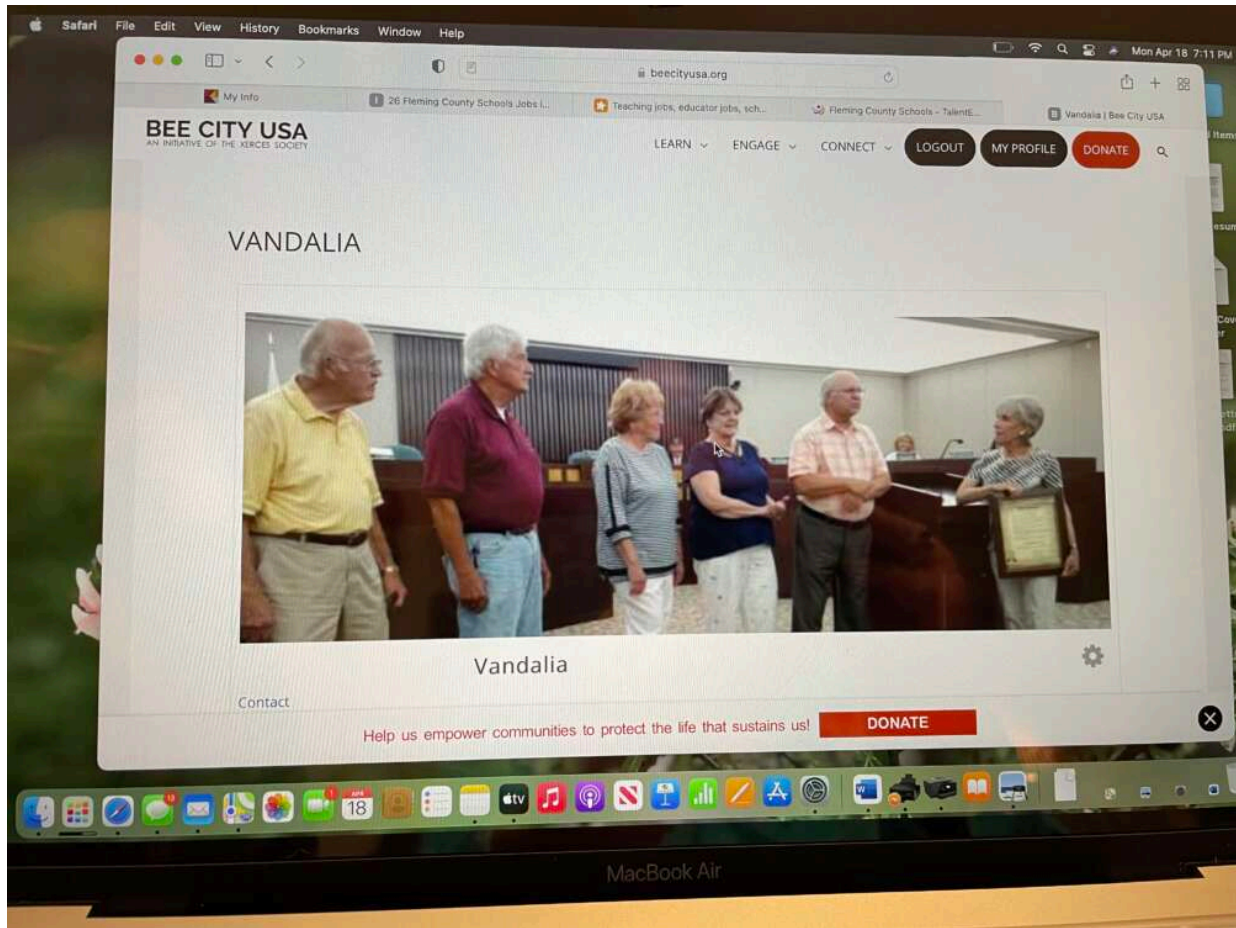
Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Strategy.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Learn More



Committee members at City Council Bee City Proclamation

