

# Bee City USA - Middletown

Report on 2022



## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The pollinator garden was enhanced in the spring – additional plants added included Virginia sweetspire, Blue star, Columbine, Heath aster, Aromatic aster, False indigo, Wild geranium, False sunflower, Lance leaf loosestrife, Beardtongue, Wild pink, Blue eyed grass, Switch grass, Little bluestem, Creeping phlox and Lyre leaf sage. A tree planting event took place on Arbor Day in April in which volunteers helped to plant over 100 trees. Pollinator-friendly tree species planted at that time included: red maples, willow oaks and scarlet oaks. At our Heritage Festival event, our committee gave out hundreds of seed packets containing pollinator plant seeds for residents to disperse in their yards. It is our hope that additional pollinator habitat is created from that initiative.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?*

2

*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

4400

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

8

*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Tree planting demonstration at Arbor Day event



Potomac Edison employees planting trees at Arbor Day event

## Education & Outreach

The Town's Sustainability Committee maintained the pollinator garden at one of our town parks. It was planted in 2021 in two stages based on when the plants were scheduled to ship. Many members helped out on both planting days. We had information about pollinator conservation at a table adjacent to the pollinator garden during our annual Green Expo hosted by the Sustainability Committee with volunteers to answer questions that attendees might have about the plants in the garden. Many other exhibitors present at the Green Expo also include pollinator conservation materials at their booths. We also had members volunteer during the Town's annual Heritage Festival at a booth where we had lots of information about pollinator conservation and seed mix packets with pollinator plants were handed out to the festival attendees. We continually add resources to our Sustainability Committee's website regarding pollinator conservation (<https://www.greenmiddletown.com/pollinator-conservation>). Our committee continued to maintain and add additional plantings to the pollinator garden in 2022.

*How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?*

2

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

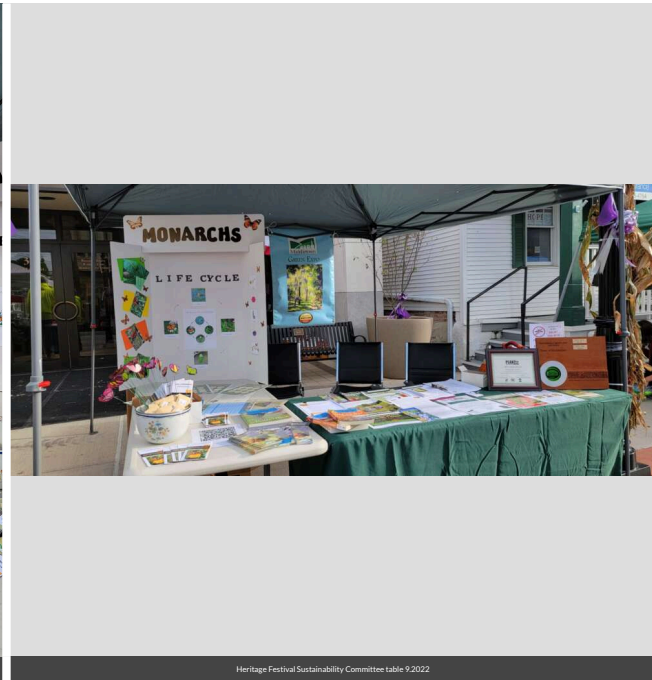
500

*How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?*

2

Did your city council/county commission (highest elected body) issue a proclamation for National Pollinator Week last summer?  
Please note: this is now an optional activity.

- Yes



## Policies & Practices

Members of the Sustainability Committee met with the Town's Public Works department to discuss eliminating pesticide use in town. To our surprise we learned that for many years now, the Town has not been using pesticides to maintain aesthetics on town-owned property. The only instance where pesticides have been used is in one round-about where there is a difficult patch of thistle that has been hard to eliminate. Action has also been taken by requesting our mowing contractor to stop spraying weed killer in the town's dog park.

*What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?*

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)

- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

*Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.*

**We promote the use of native tree and shrub plantings to residents and have many resources, including native tree and shrub lists, on our website ([www.greenmiddletown.com](http://www.greenmiddletown.com)) and the Town's website ([www.middletown.md.us](http://www.middletown.md.us)).**

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*  
**not at this time**

*Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?*

**The Town's staff planner and co-chair of the Sustainability Committee looks for training opportunities and has one in mind to attend this year.**

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [Approved Pollinator Resolution 11.2017.pdf](#)

[https://www.middletown.md.us/vertical/sites/%7B4C3AC731-6F4C-4536-A861-95ECA1B7B30F%7D/uploads/Resolution\\_17-07\\_Pollinators.pdf](https://www.middletown.md.us/vertical/sites/%7B4C3AC731-6F4C-4536-A861-95ECA1B7B30F%7D/uploads/Resolution_17-07_Pollinators.pdf)

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [List of Native Overstory Trees.docx](#)

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/Native-Plants>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/>

Learn More

<http://GreenMiddletown.com>  
[cunangst@ci.middletown.md.us](mailto:cunangst@ci.middletown.md.us)

<https://www.facebook.com/middletowngreenteam>



Some of our committee members at the newly established pollinator garden