

What is an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat?

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and,
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.



For more information on
Vandalia's Bee City, USA
status, check out our website!

www.vandaliaohio.org

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The benefits of Bee City, USA



Ensure survival of vital animal species

Help to ensure the survival of vital animal species crucial to our planet's complex food web.



Improve local food production

Raise community awareness of how our food grows and improve local food production through expanded pollination.



Stimulate local plant nursery market

Improve local plant nursery markets by increasing demand for native, pollinator friendly plants.



Engage community in removing invasives

Mobilize community to remove non-native invasive plants to make way for locally native plants.



Address pest problems less toxically

Raise community awareness of the least toxic ways to deal with home and garden pest problems.



Heighten awareness of seasonal changes

Raise community awareness of the local environment's seasonality as understanding grows about pollinators' reliance on blooming plants and trees.



Increase small business opportunities

Support growth of niche business - pollinator friendly landscaping, bee-keeping suppliers, chemical-free lawn care, native seed suppliers.

Why Vandalia "BEE-lieves" in Bee City, USA

One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination. Equally important, 90 percent of all wild plants and trees rely on pollinators for the survival of their species.

Not surprisingly, in 2007 when honey bee colonies started disappearing, later dubbed "Colony Collapse Disorder," beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike became very concerned. While less is known about native bees and other pollinators, we do know that entire species are disappearing at alarming rates as they battle most of the same enemies as honey bees--loss of habitat essential for food and shelter, diseases and parasites, and inappropriate pesticide use.

U.S. honey bee populations (introduced to North America by colonists in the 1600s)

are declining at a stunning annual rate of 44 percent or more. Honey bees may be best known and appreciated because we enjoy the honey and wax they produce. But thousands of other native bee species--bumble, mining, mason, sweat, alkali, orchard, carder, leafcutter, carpenter, long-horned, squash, sunflower, digger, etc.--have also been declining at alarming rates, and in some cases, going extinct.

Bee City USA fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our communities and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat.

The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, which are vital to feeding the planet.

Did you know?

Many crops rely on pollinators, including:

Almonds	Apples	Avocados
Beans	Blueberries	Broccoli
Cabbage	Carrots	Cashews
Cauliflower	Celery	Coconuts
Coffee	Cotton	Eggplant
Grapes	Mangoes	Onions
Oranges	Peaches	Pears
Peppers	Potatoes	Sesame
Strawberries	Sunflowers	Tomatoes

...just to name a few!

Pollinator-friendly plants

Plants that are native to a geographic area make the best pollinator-friendly plants. In southwest Ohio, plants that attract bees and other pollinators include:

Black Cohosh	Yellow Trout Lily
Daisy Fleabane	Plain Gentian
Alumroot	Shreve's Iris
Foamflower	Cleft Phlox
Virginia Creeper	Trumpet Creeper
Summer Grape	Goldenrod

For a complete list, www.pollinator.org