

Bee City USA - Burlington

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Burlington Parks has transitioned all of its historical annual planting beds to perennials with 70% of those perennials being native species. This creates significant new habitat throughout the city. Investment in sustainable perennial landscapes, and creating city nurseries to propagate the perennials, makes economic sense and reduces the consumption of fossil fuels used to grow, package, transport, and maintain annuals. Video link. Three areas of enhancement and pollinator stewardship in our city are a) the Urban Reserve off of the Greenway where 35,000 square feet was converted from concrete, post industrial scrub land to a meadow form low mow area. b) Additionally, a 10,000 square foot 'No Mow' area along the Greenway at Lakeview Cemetery was established. All plantings are significant pollen, nectar or host plant resources for insects. The signage is also a form of public education. c) The city 2020 completion of the Burlington Greenway/bike path renovation. The name 'greenway' itself tells of the thoughtful effort to make a public recreation path wildlife and pollinator-friendly. It is landscaped with many native plants and shrubs. Members of Grow Wild and volunteers initiated development of a staged native plant installation garden at 311 North Avenue. The project integrates food forest plantings, two community garden sites, and a heavily used public path from North Avenue to the Greenway/Bikepath. On another area of the site, UVM collects data on site degradation, invasives and experiments in restoration. BPRW started tree nurseries at 3 Major sites. At Ethan Allen Park, the American Chestnut Hybrid Tree project planted 36 American Chestnut hybrids in partnership with the The American Chestnut Foundation, the University of Vermont Rubenstein School, and the US Forest Service. At McKenzie Park 800 (shrub willow, red osier dogwood, silver maple) were planted along the Winooski River in partnership with 350 Vermont, US Fish and Wildlife, and the Intervale Center. At Oakledge Park a wetland planting of 350 species includes Buttonbush, Chokeberry, Chokeberry, Green ash, N. White cedar, White oak, Winterberry in partnership with Audubon Vermont and the University of Vermont. Our City Hall Park was revamped and improved (handout link) to include 384 shrubs and 3,435 perennials and ornamental grasses and shrubs. Most plantings were sourced from local growers. The project creates pollinator habitat in the downtown area, and displays color from May through October. 22 new trees were planted for a total of 48 trees in all, in healthier soil that will no longer erode in every storm, and with an eye toward the importance of having a diversity of tree species and ages, creating healthy bird and pollinator habitat in the park. Resurfacing impermeable surfaces by 10%, creating 8,193sq ft. of additional green space.

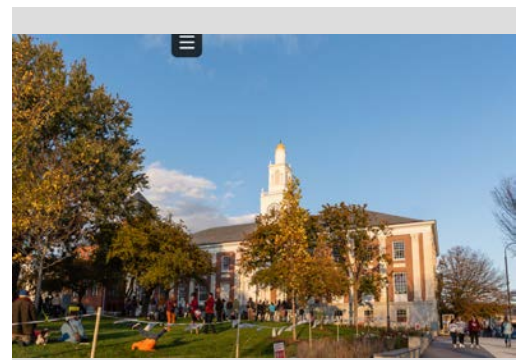




This sign indicates a "No Mow" Zone at Lakeview Cemetery where roughly ¼ acre of lakefront green space along the Burlington Greenway/Bike path. It was left unmowed for the entire growing season.



Members of Grow Wild and volunteers developed an educational 'Area Demonstration Garden', creating a 'doable, replicable rewilding', of an established area at the edge of a new housing development. This provides the public a dynamic, realistic example and inspiration for what can be accomplished toward rewilding in their own yards.



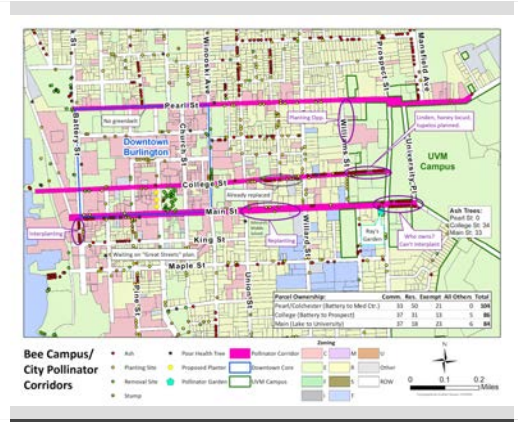
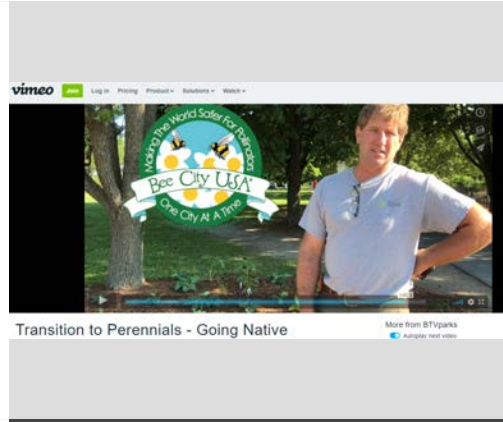
City Hall Park opening celebration showcases native and pollinator-friendly perennial plantings. Photo credit Renee Greenlee.

Education & Outreach

In 2020, Burlington's Bee City committee collaborated with a group of active pollinator advocacy stakeholders to form an umbrella partnership named Grow Wild. <https://burlingtonwildways.org/projects/grow-wild>. We are inspired by E.O. Wilson's Half Earth theory and aim to enlist public involvement and decision-making in regard to pollinator health and habitat in all of our public spaces. This initiative also has a goal of supporting and guiding landowners to integrate native plants and biodiversity into private landscapes and yards. Stakeholder representatives include: Burlington Bee City, Burlington Parks Recreation and Waterfront (BPWR), Burlington Wildways Coalition, Bee Campus of UVM, the cemetery commissioner, City Naturalist, Plant nursery growers, USFWS, and citizen naturalists/conservationists. Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront BPRW produced a video to share how it is creating new habitat throughout the city by replacing annual plants with native, flowering perennials. Native plants attract and feed a diverse range of insects and provide bird populations with a dependable source of caterpillars on which to raise their young. Investment in sustainable perennial landscapes, and creating city nurseries to propagate the perennials, makes economic sense and reduces the consumption of fossil fuels used to grow, package, transport, and maintain annual flowers. [In Transition to Perennials - Going Native on Vimeo link](#). The "Burlington Conservation Newsletter" <https://vimeo.com/456613463> describes current events and information for the public. The March 2020 issue, titled, [Rewilding our Home Lawns](https://enjoyburlington.com/rewilding-our-lawns/), <https://enjoyburlington.com/rewilding-our-lawns/> describes the need and benefit for rethinking traditional yards. It gives an informed homeowner's experience in the rewilding process and includes an articulated native plant recommendation list for the Burlington environmental and geological conditions. We undertook 2 mapping projects. Bee City Burlington, joined forces with UVM Bee Campus, to create shared project areas which have taken shape as pollinator corridors extending the mile from the UVM Campus into the downtown and waterfront of Burlington ([map link](#)). In another mapping project, volunteers began a mapping project to document private and public pollinator-friendly landscapes, inventorying



potential demonstration sites and areas for pollinator corridors. They identified spaces within neighborhoods containing native and ornamental plant habitat, backyard beekeepers, and areas to collaborate on enhancement projects moving forward. Our City Hall Park opening celebration on October 16, 2020, in collaboration with Burlington City Arts (BCA), highlighted the inclusion of landscaping with native plants and pollinator-friendly perennials in a weekend-long event.



Mayor Miro announces a Bee City USA designation for Burlington; The resolution was adopted by the City Council on April 29th and hosted a table to celebrate the accomplishment at Kids Day in 2019 and with a virtual parade in 2020.

Transition to Perennials - Going Native on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/456613463> Watch this video to see how The City of Burlington is working to address climate change through a variety of adaptive measures. Nature based solutions are an integral part of developing resiliency in our landscapes. In this video we showcase some of the work we are doing with native plants and perennials.

Pollinator Corridor Map :Bee City Burlington has created a strategic partnership with UVM Bee Campus to develop shared project areas to collaborate and join forces. These areas have taken shape as pollinator corridors that extend from the UVM campus into the downtown and lakefront of Burlington.

Policies & Practices

A Resolution: Protecting Bees and Other Pollinators -

[https://go.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/A8SQVX590412/\\$file/Parks%20-%20Protecting%20Bees%20and%20Other%20Pollinators.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/A8SQVX590412/$file/Parks%20-%20Protecting%20Bees%20and%20Other%20Pollinators.pdf) - passed by Burlington City Council on Monday, April 11, 2016. A 2007 Burlington pesticide ordinance states (6) No pesticides may be applied outdoors within five hundred (500) feet of Lake Champlain or any of its tributaries without specific approval from the board of health. Criteria for this approval are defined by the board of health's statutory authority to protect public health. It requires notification, signage, and delineates location restrictions.<https://www2.burlingtonvt.gov/Archives/?=4013>

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Learn More



The Grow Wild BTV committee, including Bee City representatives, met by zoom.m during the pandemic.

