

Bee City USA - Davidson

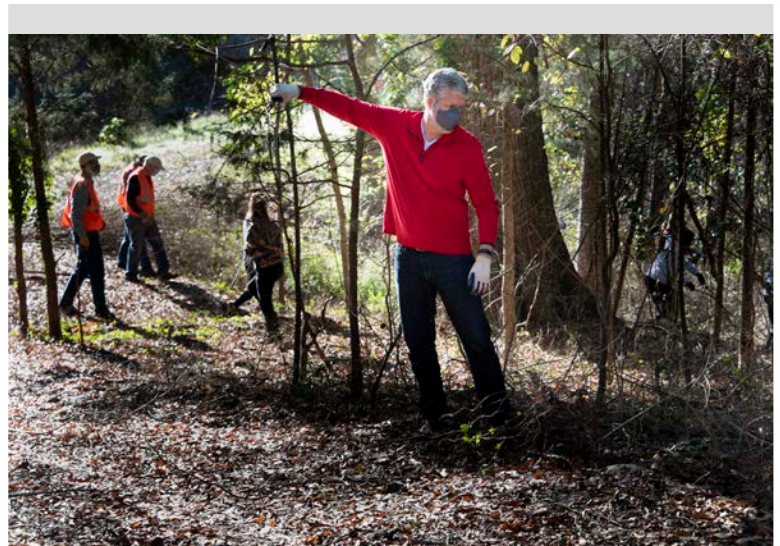
Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

MILKWEED PROTECTION: On November 19, six volunteers helped to delineate milkweed patches at a local park and to film a movie on the lifecycle of the monarch. Large sections of milkweed have been demarcated with poles to which we attached flags. These flags are decorated by local children with pictures of butterflies and help to prevent the area from being mowed and destroying the milkweed. **INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL:** Fifty volunteers gathered on Saturday, November 21, for a community clean-up at Beaty Park, Davidson's emerging gem of a park and nature preserve. Volunteers learned about the history and plans for Beaty Park and the challenges of restoring the parkland after years of neglect. Clean-up focused on removal of invasive plant cuttings along with trash and debris. This community event was hosted by Davidson Lands Conservancy and the Town of Davidson. Bee City is composed of members from each of these two groups.



Marking milkweed patches to protect from mowing.



Invasive plant removal from a local park.

Education & Outreach

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH: Due to COVID restrictions, we had to be creative in our educational outreach. Thus, were born Nature WOW-NOW Kits, a "to-go" form of nature and science-based activity kits! With help from local partners,



including the Carolina Raptor Center that donated owl pellets for student dissection, we assembled nature activity bags for 60 children at Ada Jenkins, a local center which aids in education of children from low-wealth families. The kits included fun outdoor craft materials and science activities. Summer interns from Davidson College, provided remote instruction to guide the children in using their kits. The kids were really into the owl pellet dissection! A second round of bags was provided—complete with Davidson Lands Conservancy’s Backyard Books Bird edition and other bird-themed activities—to the 16 Pre-K students at Davidson Cornelius Child Development Center. The class took their bird guides to the Ada Jenkins pollinator garden and used them to identify nearby feathered friends. WATER QUALITY: Rusty Rozzelle, Mecklenburg County’s manager of Storm Water Services, was the guest speaker in a zoom meeting on December 8 for the Davidson Lands Conservancy. Rusty summarized the natural and human history of our local streams, along with compelling evidence linking development and urbanization with water quality deterioration. He detailed the benefits of water shed conservation to 20 boards members and guests. TREE PLANTINGS: On October 24, a beautiful fall morning at Fisher Farm Park, 50 enthusiastic volunteers met, eager to plant 45 trees at the conserved park with the help of Tree Masters from TreesDavidson a local nonprofit. Volunteers were from various groups including the Davidson Garden Club, Christ the King Catholic High, Cannon School, Davidson Rotary Club, and Scout Troop 58, among others. Each volunteer was oriented to proper tree planting and the importance of trees. Participants planted 15- and 25-gallon containerized trees, some as tall as 12 feet, surrounding the parking lot and down the primary path into Fisher Farm Park. Tree species include white oak, serviceberry, buckeye, redbud, American beech, tulip poplar, and black gum. An additional tree planting took place on November 14 at Bailey Springs and Plum Creek Park. Thirty-six trees were planted at this event. VIRTUAL EARTH DAY: We had planned an extensive 50th Earth Day celebration prior to Covid. This event had to be canceled and placed on-line as a virtual event with several presentations including: composting, recycling, and pollinator safe practices. Website: <http://townofdavidsong.org/1267/Virtual-Earth-Day>



Finding birds in a local pollinator garden.

Getting instructions on tree planting activities for the day.

Planting native trees at a local park.

Policies & Practices

The town is currently researching best practices and is developing a plan to reduce the number of parks and other town property that use non-toxic methods for pests and weed management. The town has avoided the use of pesticides in designated pollinator habitat, except when targeted herbicide use is deemed the best option for invasive plants.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Wildflowers of North Carolina.pdf](#)
<https://ncwildflower.org/native-plant-handouts/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Sources for Native Plants.pdf](#)

Learn More

<https://davidsonlands.org>

