

Bee City USA Annual Report: 2016

Town of Carrboro

"We can all avoid pesticides. We can all put nectar-rich native plants into the landscape. We can all advocate for green space. We can all teach kids about bees. It's not that we all need to become beekeepers. No, we all need to become bee protectors, bee champions."

--Alison Gillespie, author of Hives in the City. Keeping Honey Bees Alive in an Urban World

In the fall of 2014, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen adopted [a resolution](#) to apply to [Bee City USA](#), and Carrboro became the 3rd [Bee City USA](#) community. The [Environmental Advisory Board](#) (EAB) took on the role of serving as a citizen's advisory group, a requirement for participation in [Bee City USA](#). In 2015, a number of activities were pursued to kick off the Town's participation, as described in the [2015 report](#). The rest of this report focuses on 2016 activities.



A decision was made to host a Father's Day movie at the Carrboro Century Center, with [Queen of the Sun](#) being chosen. The ["Bee City" page](#) was updated on the Town's website to help promote pollinator protection and habitat restoration. John Rintoul, a local resident and member of the [Orange County Beekeepers Association](#), approached the Town about siting demonstration hives, with the hives eventually [ending up at Carrboro High School](#).

Mayor Lydia Lavelle provided a [proclamation](#) to coincide with [National Pollinator Week](#).



Annette Downing Stone, the Town's Economic and Community Development Director, worked with [Matt Willey](#) (a mural artist and founder of [The Good of the Hive](#)) and the [Carrboro Tourism Development Authority](#), to plan for the signature event of the year, the [painting of a mural](#) at Fire Station #1. This mural is part of an effort to [paint 50,000 honeybees](#) on murals across the country and beyond. This photo shows Matt initiating the mural in July.



The new North Carolina “[Help Save the Honeybee](#)” license plate began to be seen around town.



The [Public Works Department](#) continues to promote and pursue healthy pollinator habitats in its own operations. Public Works pursued installation of water wise, native, pollinator producing perennials as primary vegetation throughout Town properties, and also continued the Adopt-a-Planting Bed Program. The [Environmental Advisory Board](#) adopted the pollinator garden at the corner of West Main Street and Hillsborough Road.



Randy Dodd, the Town’s Environmental Planner, participated in several conference calls with the growing number of [Bee City](#) representatives across the country to share successes and challenges.

Public Works also worked with a Boy Scout, Kalil Kanzen, to plan for an Eagle Scout project of one or more native pollinator nesting kiosks to be installed in the spring of 2017. This picture shows a kiosk from Chatham County that may serve as a prototype.



The mural project included a couple outdoor movie nights projected onto the Fire Station wall. Below is a picture of the mural a few days from completion.



That’s the news for 2016 !

