

Town of Carrboro Bee City USA Annual Report June 2015

"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 August, 2014, Town staff and Marty Hanks from Just Bees Apiary had an initial discussion about the opportunity for the Carrboro to participate in Bee City USA. It was decided to approach the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) about their interest in serving as a citizen's advisory group, a requirement for participation in Bee City USA. In September, 2014, the EAB enthusiastically endorsed the opportunity, and forwarded on a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen that the Town join Bee City USA. On October 7th, the Board adopted [a resolution](#) to apply to Bee City, and soon thereafter, Carrboro became the 3rd Bee City USA community. Around this time, Phyllis Stiles from Bee City USA was in town, and had the chance to meet with Marty and Randy Dodd, the Town's Environmental Planner.

Public Works staff installed a Bee City sign in front of Town Hall late in the fall of 2014.



Bee City USA Sign

The focus of the winter and early spring was planning for activities to coincide with National Pollinator Week. This was pursued by staff

along with the EAB and Marty Hanks. A decision was made to approach the Carrboro Farmers Market to plan for a "Pollinator Day", and to also host a movie at the Carrboro Century Center. A ["Bee City" page](#) was created on the Town's website to help promote pollinator protection and habitat restoration.

In the spring of 2015, the Town's Landscape Supervisor, David Jantzen, attended a workshop in Asheville to share information about the Town's [Least Toxic Integrated Pest Management policy](#) and related practices. Public Works staff also installed pollinator plants in a demonstration rain garden at the corner of James Street and Hillsborough Road.



Hillsborough & James Pollinator/Rain Garden

Mayor Lydia Lavelle introduced Pollinator Week with a [proclamation](#). A Pollinator Week banner was created and displayed.



Pollinator Day was held at the Farmers Market on June 13th.



Graphic design support from Jennifer Armstrong

A big crowd passed through the gazebo area at the market throughout the morning to learn about Carrboro being a Bee City, what they can do to help pollinators, honeybees and native bees, and landscaping and plants.



Display stickers were also placed at a number of the market vendors sites indicating the pollinator species responsible for a given crop.



Posters were provided for many native pollinator species.



*Native Bee Education Poster
(credit: Shannon Chapin-Groff)*

The North Carolina Botanical Gardens had an exhibit at Pollinator Day which coincided with the kickoff for their four month “[Saving Our Pollinators](#)” exhibition, which included several dozen events.

Acme Restaurant, Niche Gardens, 5th Season Gardening, Weaver Street Market, Harris Teeter, and Just Bees Apiary donated items for a prize drawing at Pollinator Day.



Carrboro’s first Pollinator Week concluded with a free screening of the movie *More Than Honey* at the Carrboro Century Center on June 21st.



About 25 people attended.



The movie (DVD) is being placed into circulation in the Orange County library system.

The Town continues to promote and pursue pollinator habitats in its own operations and through the Adopt-A-Planting Bed program.

