



***Beeing Part of a Community***





# Bee City USA



**Put Carroll County, MD on the Map  
with *Pollinators!***



**1 OF 3 BITES OF FOOD IS  
BECAUSE OF A POLLINATORS**



This is what your grocery store looks like  
**WITHOUT BEES** 



## *Pollinator Fast Facts*

- 1 in 3 bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination
- **MORE THAN 150 Types Of Crops Are Pollinated By Bees In The Us Including The Clover And Alfalfa That Feed Our Cows**
- **Approx. 90% of the world's flowering plants require insects for pollination**
- **Most pollinators are beneficial insects**





# *Understanding*



- ❖ **During the past few years**, there have been calls to action both nationally and internationally to reverse pollinator declines.
- ❖ Both thinking globally and acting locally! **Bee City USA** offers a positive vision based on available science, which encourages individual efforts while facilitating creative, constructive community partnerships.
- ❖ **Bee City USA** has adopted an “open source” model of program. In other words, nothing about the effort is proprietary except the name. In this way towns, schools, libraries, neighborhood associations, garden clubs, universities, businesses, etc., are invited to use their existing community outreach programs to raise awareness of the vital ecosystem services pollinators provide



## Bee City USA



- **Founded in 2012 in Asheville, NC**
- **Xerces Society alliance as of 2018**
- **141 cities and counting**



“The Bee City USA program endorses a set of commitments, defined in a resolution, for creating [sustainable habitats for native pollinators](#), which are vital to feeding the planet. Incorporated cities, towns, and communities across America are invited to make these commitments and become certified as a Bee City USA affiliate.”



# Carroll County Beekeeper's Association



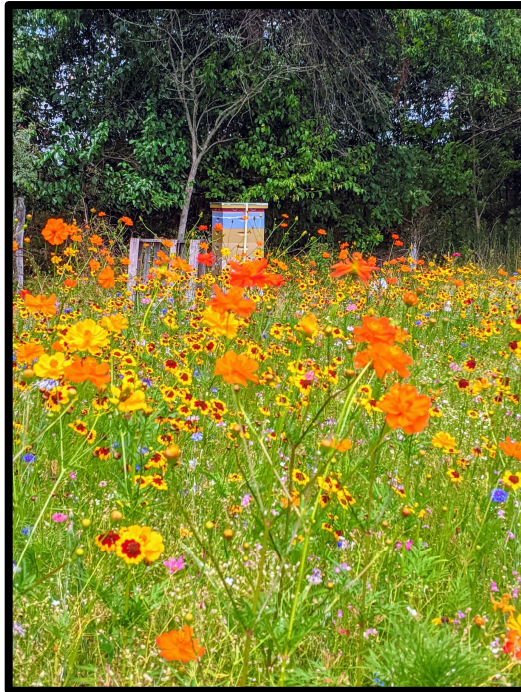
Established 1983

- 501C3 Non-profit
- 328 paid club members
- 581 members of the CCBA Facebook group
- Annual 6-week beekeeping short course
- Mentor program for new beekeepers
- Monthly meetings
- Outreach partnerships with 4H, local government, public schools, scouts, etc.





# What does it Mean



Being a ***Bee City USA*** raises awareness and creates dialog of the roll pollinators play in our community and the importance of us providing a healthy habitat for them to thrive in!

**BEE City encourage** individuals and communities to start with the resources they have rather than spending years in large fundraising campaigns for showplace gardens. Pollinators don't need showplaces; they need food (pollen and nectar) and places to mate, nest and overwinter.





# Steps we need to take.



1<sup>st</sup> Form a Bee City committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Approach other Organizations to join in the effort

3<sup>rd</sup> Develop our proposal to the county on achieving this certification

4<sup>th</sup> Begin a plan for Create and enhance pollinator habitat on public and private land by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticides

5<sup>th</sup> Apply to become a **BEE City USA**

6<sup>th</sup> Bee City Committee oversees that the habits are being maintained and retaining Bee City Status (renewing certification each year)

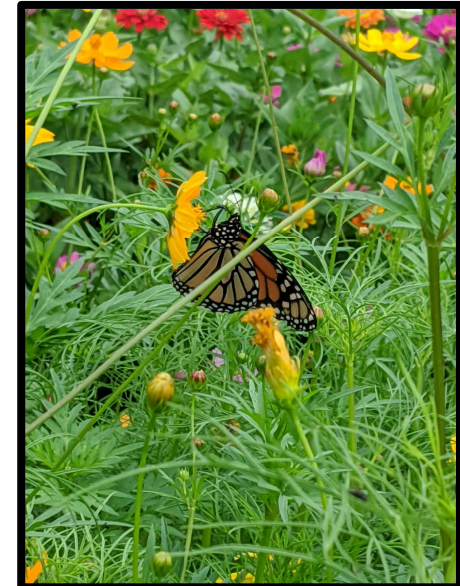




# *What we need!*



- ❖ The bee city will have to create a set of commitments, defined in a resolution for creating and sustaining the habitats.
- ❖ By being a Bee City USA affiliate, county leaders (both grass tops and grassroots) can improve their city's environment, eating habits, and economy:
- ❖ **We Need:**  
Grassroot leaders: Carroll County Beekeepers Association and Other Community Organizations like community schools, Library, Historic Society, and Community involvement as examples.
- ❖ **County Staff:**  
The County Experts: Parks and Rec, Horticulture specialist, Maintenance Department, The County's Department of Community Planning and Development





## *Initial and Annual Cost!*



Pay an initial application fee and annual renewal fee of \$500

Fee based on population size.

< 9,999	\$100
10,000-24,999	\$200
25,000-49,999	\$300
50,000-99,999	\$400
>100,000	\$500



According to Bee City USA, “ The annual fee helps Bee City USA engage communities across the nation in enhancing pollinator habitat and raising awareness of the vital role pollinators playing sustaining people and the planet.”



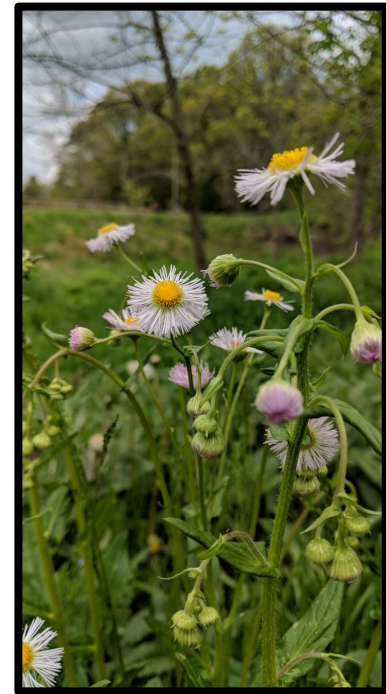
## *Creating a Plan*



**Each Bee City USA** applicant should have a county staff member from the county's sponsoring department who serves as the Liaison between the county and the Bee City USA committee.

The Liaison may or may not serve on the Bee City USA committee, but they facilitate communications between the county, the county staff and elected body, and the Bee City USA

Annually apply for renewal and report on the previous year's activities





## Other Steps as a Bee City



**Incorporate pollinator-conscious practices into county policies and plans!**





# Benefits to our community



**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 markets**

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

**Engage community in removing invasive plants**

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

More than 150 food crops in the United States depend on pollinators, including blueberries, apples, squash, strawberries and almonds.

**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, beekeeping suppliers, chemical-free lawn care, native seed suppliers.





# Becoming a Bee City Community Involvement



Host pollinator awareness events





# Bringing Together The Community



King Park, Westminster, MD  
First **Bee City**  
Designated habitat area!







# Bringing Together The Community



Wakefield Park, Westminster, MD  
Westminster High school  
environmental Club Sunflower  
Field Idea!



Signage to create  
awareness about  
this project



# *Opportunity to Volunteer*



## ***Building with the Community***

### **Kids:**

School age kids get volunteer hours they need for school.

Great opportunities for school field trips for science to learn about creating and preservation.

### **Local Clubs**

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Garden Clubs, Churches, 4-H





# Becoming a Bee City



**Publicly acknowledge  
Bee City USA affiliation  
with signs and an  
online Presence!**



**Did You Know?  
There Is Over 450  
Different Native Bee  
Species In Maryland**



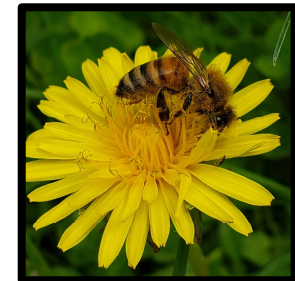


# The Wonders and Excitement



A way to make the community feel like they are doing their part and boast about it with a small yard sign!

Pollinator Pledge!  
To be a Pollinator Protector



Have a place on the County website where they can take the pledge and state what they are doing like planting a pollinator garden or letting the dandelions and clover grow in their yards and not using pesticides!



# Websites



- [www.CarrollCountyBeekeepers.org](http://www.CarrollCountyBeekeepers.org)
- [www.BeeCityUSA.org](http://www.BeeCityUSA.org)
- [www.Pollinator.org](http://www.Pollinator.org)





# The Impact of Healthy Pollinators



## References

- [Xerces: Pollinator-friendly parks](#)
- [International Union for Conservation of Nature: Guide for pollinator-friendly cities](#)
- [Pollinator-Friendly Alliance: How to help](#)
- [Monarch Joint Venture: Pollinator-friendly parks](#)
- [Howard County: 2019 Bee City announcement](#)
- [Anne Arundel County: 2016 Bee City announcement](#)



# Current Maryland Bee Cities



There currently 9 Bee Cities  
in the state of Maryland

- Annapolis
- Berlin
- Greenbelt
- College Park
- Howard County
- Middletown
- Salisbury
- Westminster
- Havre de Grace

