



Pollinator Trail



Discover WNC Pollinator Adventures

A guide to local destinations that inspire, educate, and celebrate the importance of pollinators! Not only are pollinators beautiful and interesting to observe, they're responsible for producing most of the foods we enjoy!

Follow this trail to stroll through bountiful gardens brimming with colorful blossoms and teeming with life. Experience the rich flavors of local honey, artisanal beverages, and farm-fresh foods found in our majestic mountain region. Take in the beauty of local artwork inspired by bees and butterflies. Whether at a seasonal festival or a local garden center, discover native plants to help create your own homegrown paradise for pollinators! Discover pollinator adventures around Hendersonville and beyond. Adventures include:

BEE ARTSY! - PUBLIC ART CELEBRATING POLLINATORS
BEE GREEN! - POLLINATOR GARDENS & HABITATS
BEE SMART! - JUST FOR KIDS ecoEXPLORE Hotspots
BEE SEASONAL! - ANNUAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS
BEE-COME A POLLINATOR GARDENER! - LOCAL GARDEN CENTERS & NATURE SHOPS





BEE ARTSY! - PUBLIC ART CELEBRATING POLLINATORS

1

The Good of the Hive (Bee & Pollinator) Mural Exterior wall of Hands On! Children's Museum

located within the Azalea Public Parking Lot (facing Third Ave. E. between N. Main Street and King Street) This larger-than-life landmark mural was painted by The Good of the Hive founder and artist, Matthew Willey, as part of his mission to paint 50,000 bees and other pollinators in murals around the world. Entirely funded by donations from the community, including sponsorships from many local organizations and businesses listed on this Pollinator Trail, the mural stirs curiosity and inspires actions to help sustain healthy ecosystems. The hive of bees also serves as a metaphor for recognizing and celebrating the power in human connection.

2

Bearfootin' Bears Art Walk Along N. Main Street in Downtown Hendersonville

(May - October)

Bears, bees, and honey just seem to go together! The annual Bearfootin' Public Art Walk is a whimsical, playful public art display featuring bear sculptures each transformed in a spectacular fashion by local artists. Past themes for bears have included "Buzz the Pollinator Bear" featuring beekeeping scenes; "Honeybear" painted to resemble a squeeze bottle of delicious mountain honey; a mother and her cub named "Polly & Nate" covered in a diversity of native wildflowers, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. What pollinator-themed designs will you find adorning the bears this year?

3

Double View Pollinator Murals - Bullington Gardens,

95 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville (grounds open year- round 9 AM - 4 PM)

Along the trails of Bullington Gardens, visitors will find a pair of outdoor murals, each with two different designs as seen from two different directions. One features a monarch butterfly from one view and a caterpillar from the other view. This reminds us in order to have butterflies, we must also have plants to feed their young. The other mural features a honey bee from one view and a fresh ripe apple from the other view. This points out the importance of pollinators to agriculture, especially here in Henderson County where farmers (with help from pollinators) produce 85% of the state's annual apple harvest.

Want more art? To see more local artwork, visit the [Art MoB Studios & Marketplace](#) located just one block from the bee mural, Art Gallery Trail, and Art Scape Banners as well as the Downtown Hendersonville section of the Appalachian Mural Trail.



BEE GREEN! - POLLINATOR GARDENS & HABITATS

4

City of Hendersonville Pollinator Gardens & Habitats

Certified as a Tree City USA community since 1992 and Bee City USA affiliate since 2015, the City of Hendersonville strives to create a beautiful and healthy place to live for both people and pollinators. Multiple pollinator gardens have been funded and created by the City's Tree Board as part of their Bee City USA program. These sites serve as examples of pollinator-friendly landscaping that can be replicated at home. For an updated list of City organized pollinator gardens and habitats, please visit hendersonvillenc.gov/sustainability/land-management. Highlights include:

- Bearcat Loop Tree & Pollinator Plantings Along Bearcat Loop
- Oklawaha Greenway Pollinator Meadows
- Brooklyn Creek Bird Sanctuary (and more!)

5

Bullington Gardens,

95 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville (grounds open year-round, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

Boasting perennials in a range of sizes, colors, and shapes, Bullington's pollinator garden supports and maintains pollinators by supplying food in the form of pollen, nectar, and host plants. Using a diversity of plants helps ensure butterflies, bees, and other pollinators will stay in the area to help pollinate our important fruit and agriculture crops in Henderson County.

6

Bountiful Harvest Community Garden

Jackson Park (just behind the Mountain Community School),

Started and managed by a group of Master Gardener Volunteers from N.C. Cooperative Extension in Henderson County) contains 40 plots dedicated to growing food and flowers. Assorted pollinator flower beds containing a variety of flowers and plants line the interior and exterior fence line and bloom from early spring to late fall, providing food and habitat for a diversity of pollinators.

7

The Mountain Community School Pollinator Garden

613 Glover St, Hendersonville

Small parking lot perimeter pollinator gardens filled with Joe Pye weed, Echinacea, Agastache, Allium, Amsonia, ornamental grasses, and Clethra and additional donated plants by Botanical Treasures and volunteers. All plantings planted by the now 5th grade students when they were in 3rd grade. Fully open for the public to walk through the parking areas.



BEE GREEN! - POLLINATOR GARDENS & HABITATS, continued

8 **Blue Ridge Community College - Bee Campus USA Pollinator Plantings**

180 W Campus Dr, Flat Rock

In February 2017, Blue Ridge Community College became the 16th educational institution in the nation to be certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program. The college's Bee Campus Committee is leading the way in this effort and takes pride in the college's commitment to minimizing hazards to pollinators by using no neonicotinoid pesticides, and almost no glyphosate herbicide or other potentially dangerous synthetic pesticides. Visitors to the campus can explore the walking path, which winds through various native shrubs and trees, a certified monarch waystation, a butterfly garden, and several acres of pollinator habitat.

9 **The Park at Flat Rock – Pollinator Garden and Meadows**

55 Highland Golf Drive, Flat Rock

Visitors to The Park at Flat Rock experience a wide range of opportunities for enjoying pollinators and their habitat. The 67+ acre park has nearly three miles of easy trails which allow visitors of all ages to experience a variety of pollinators attracted by a wide range of nectar and host plants. The park includes a formal pollinator garden, maintained by local Master Gardeners, that presents plantings designed explicitly to attract and support a range of pollinators from well-known monarch butterflies to more mysterious native bees. The formal pollinator garden also includes the recent addition of two large archway arbors that showcase native vines known to support particular pollinators, such as the pipevine swallowtail butterfly. For a more “natural” experience, the park also includes an ever-changing two-acre wildflower meadow that reflects the role of native grasses, sedges, rushes, and flowers in providing pollinator habitat and forage. Last but not least, the park maintains several honey bee hives that provide an opportunity for visitors to experience our most famous “managed” pollinators.

Reflecting the park's focus on education, when the situation allows, the park holds hands-on seminars to instruct kids of all ages about the park's natural resources including pollinators and their habitat. The park has joined the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in hosting the Kids in Parks, Track Trails program. The Park at Flat Rock is open daily from sunrise to sunset.



BEE GREEN! - POLLINATOR GARDENS & HABITATS, continued

10 **Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site - Margaret's Garden & Pasture**

1800 Little River Rd, Flat Rock

Pick up a Farm, Field and Forest TRACK Trailbrochure when you enter the park to discover the homes and hiding places of pollinators at Connemara. The trail guide will take you by the gardens, goats and pastures while following the footsteps of Carl Sandburg's grandchildren. Activities in the brochure will guide you to learn about the various plant and animal communities that work together at Connemara.

11 **Flat Rock Playhouse Gardens**

2661 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock

A group of volunteers maintains and designs the gardens at Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina. Four and a half acres are cultivated. In addition to all the plantings, 62 QR readers provide information on your cellphone about the different areas, from native plants found in the mountains of Western North Carolina to plants loved by our bees and butterflies. Several picnic tables and paths encourage visitors to sit a while and enjoy the beauty. There is even a Little Free Library to pick a book while relaxing in this creative garden playground.

12 **Flat Rock Forest Preserve and Bird Sanctuary**

Located at center of the Historic District, across from the Wrinkled Egg (2710 Greenville Hwy) at Memminger Drive, Flat Rock (Parking available on Memminger Drive)

Volunteers with Historic Flat Rock, Inc. maintain the Forest Preserve and Bird Sanctuary, with almost two acres of woodland walking trails among native plants, a rivulet, bird houses, bat boxes, wood duck boxes, and picnic tables for visitors' enjoyment. As part of their efforts to create interest in pollinators for all ages, the Historic Flat Rock Mountain Gardeners are busy planning a new section in the preserve that will have milkweed, perennials, and more! The kiosk will feature education materials on pollinators specific to bees and plants as well as serve to update the community about educational workshops and experiences.



BEE SMART! - JUST FOR KIDS ecoEXPLORE Hotspots

1

Henderson County currently has four areas designated as “hotspots” by the ecoEXPLORE (Experiences Promoting Learning Outdoors for Research and Education) program. Kids in grades K-8 are invited to See It! (make a nature observation), Snap It! (take a photo), and Share It! (upload the photo) to help real scientists and earn cool nature prizes at the same time. Kids can even complete seasonal challenges to earn special badges including a pollinator badge!



BEE SEASONAL!- ANNUAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

1

Garden Jubilee (May - Memorial Day Weekend)

Held annually on Memorial Day Weekend, Garden Jubilee is one of the largest gardening shows in the Southeast. Visitors and locals alike flock outdoors to shop for annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hard-to-find plants from local and regional nurseries. Crafters sell garden art, handmade lawn furniture, jewelry, garden tools, planters, birdhouses, native bee nesting boxes, soaps, pottery, and more. Gardening experts offer techniques and tips for creating beautiful, as well as ecologically sustainable, gardens.

2

Pollinator Month (June)

Every June, Hendersonville’s Bee City USA affiliate works with local partners to curate a calendar of educational events, tours, tastings, plant sales, workshops, etc. all designed to highlight the important roles pollinators play in local agricultural systems and ecosystems.

3

Migrating Monarchs (Fall)

Like clockwork, migrating monarch butterflies pass through western NC from mid-September through early October. From the Hendersonville area, their epic journey to Mexico covers at least 2,000 miles. There are numerous locations to observe of this wondrous natural phenomenon from right along Main Street to up on the mountain passes of the Blue Ridge Parkway. In addition, many local organizations plan special events and festivals to celebrate monarchs and educate visitors about their significance. Monarch Day at The North Carolina Arboretum is typically held on the last Saturday of September.



BEE-COME A POLLINATOR GARDENER! - LOCAL GARDEN CENTERS & NATURE SHOPS

1

Raymond's Garden Center

1320 Kanuga Rd, Hendersonville

Raymond's Garden Center is an independent, family-owned garden center proudly growing 90% of their annuals and perennials on-site. They also offer annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs, trees and more! Check out the large selection of native plants and pollinator-attracting plants or attend one of their many workshops and seminars held throughout the year.

2

Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop

638 Spartanburg Hwy, Ste 60,

Hendersonville Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop specializes in fresh bird seed, bird feeders, and many other bird feeding supplies. Come in to meet your local experts on attracting backyard songbirds, hummingbirds, backyard critters, and pollinators! Whether you have been feeding the birds for years or are new to the hobby, their personalized service will help identify exactly which food and feeder combinations are most likely to bring in daily and seasonal birds to your backyard. Did you know bird baths can also serve as watering stations for bees? Bring the joy of nature to your home with Wild Birds Unlimited!

3

B.B. Barns The Garden Company

3377 Sweeten Creek Rd, Arden

B.B. Barns is a 4.5-acre destination garden center located near the northern border of Henderson County. They promote, design, and sell pollinator-friendly gardens and plants. The vast selection coupled with extensive gardening knowledge and friendly staff makes any visit to B. B. Barns a worthwhile trip!

For more garden centers to find native plants, visit conservingcarolina.org/where-to-get-native-plants-for-wnc-and-upstate-sc/. Wondering what pollinator-friendly species to plant? Peruse the [City of Hendersonville Tree Board's Recommended Species List](#) (includes links to additional local and regional garden centers). Want even more? To extend your pollinator journey "bee-yond" Henderson County, check [Bee City USA - Asheville](#) and [BeeCityUSA.org](#) to find a Bee City near you. For updated information on all things sustainable land management for the City of Hendersonville including Bee City and more pollinator programs, please visit hendersonvillenc.gov/sustainability/land-management