

## HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD PROJECTS 2024



2024 Highlights: The Tree Board organized the first **Bradford Pear Bounty event** – supporting a new statewide effort to eliminate invasive, dangerous Bradford Pear trees. ~ Several **new Pollinator Beds** were planted throughout the City as part of Hendersonville’s Bee City USA initiative and a new Pollinator Trail was created. ~ Methods that avoid loss of tree canopy and general loss of trees in the City’s **Urban Forest coverage** is something the Tree Board continues to address, including a proposed Urban Forestry Plan, revisions to the City’s tree ordinance, and input into the City’s strategic and long-range planning ~ The Tree Board organized other events and projects this year, which helped focus and reflect residents’ interest in trees.

*October 18-25 -- NeighborWoods Tree Plantings.* Residents in the historic Druid Hills neighborhood and residents in Saddlebrook development requested free trees through the NeighborWoods program. The trees will be delivered to the neighborhoods during the week for planting.



*Sunday, October 13 – Explore Brooklyn Creek Restoration Project.* 2 p.m. Meet at Sullivan Park pavilion in Green Meadows Community. Park along Martin Circle. (Rain date: Sun., Oct. 20, 2 p.m.) Mike Huffman, the City’s project manager for this extensive stream restoration project, will explain not only the project – which uncovered portions of the stream long forgotten – but also the relevance of the stream in the history of this community. A restored Bird Sanctuary, restoration of the natural meandering stream, streambank plantings, and upcoming community involvement will be discussed during this less-than-1/2-mile stroll. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene.



*Mid-August - September – Symbolic Monarch Migration.* Through Bee City USA-Hendersonville, the City of Hendersonville sponsored free registration for this international program for any school, non-profit organization, family, or other group located within the City of Hendersonville, up to 20 groups. The annual International Symbolic Monarch Migration Education Program mimics the monarchs' journey by engaging more than 10,000 children from across the United States and Canada in creating paper butterflies to send to students in Mexico which is where the real-life monarchs arrive for the winter. Students receive messages back from the students in Mexico, learning authentic lessons of conservation and cooperation.

*Saturday, August 17, Maple Street Farmers Market.* 8 a.m.-2 pm. -- A booth at the Maple Street Farmers Market, shared by the Tree Board and Environmental Sustainability Board, highlighted the symbolic monarch migration project of the Bee City USA-Hendersonville. Tree Board members Glenn Lange and Janet Thew displayed the Tree Board's eye-catching banner, informative brochure, and Useful Tree and Plant Information sheet, as well as a QR code connection to the City's NeighborWoods program. Passersby were interested in NeighborWoods info, and several questions about tree care were fielded.



*Saturday, June 15 – A Guided Walk to Celebrate Pollinator Week.* 9 a.m. Downtown. – From landscaped pollinator beds surrounding the Bee Mural in the Azalea parking lot to flower-filled hanging baskets and pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and grasses along Main Street to adjoining neighborhood pollinator gardens, pollinators are thoughtfully supported throughout downtown Hendersonville. A dozen interested folks joined the guided stroll to explore and learn about urban pollinator gardening, created as part of

Hendersonville's Bee City USA program, with Mark Stierwalt, Hendersonville's Public Works Superintendent. Open to the public at no charge.



*Saturday, May 25- Sunday, May 26 – Garden Jubilee.* 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Hendersonville Main St. One of the largest garden shows in WNC. The TB asked vendors to sell only native and non-invasive plants at the event. About six vendors were dealing in native plants only – a significant increase from years past.

*Friday, May 10 – Arbor Day Ceremony.* Noon. Patton Park. Three oak trees were planted near the upper pathway to Oklawaha Greenway. The Mayor read a proclamation of May 10 as Tree City Day in Hendersonville. The Rotary Club donated a \$300 gift card to the Tree Board for Garden Gate Nursery. Four Seasons Rotary has organized Arbor Day events for the City since 1991.



*Saturday, May 4 – NC Bradford Pear Tree Exchange.* 9-11 a.m. City Operations Center, 305 Williams Street. Teaming up with the NC Forest Service, NC Urban Forest Council, and NC Wildlife Federation, the TB encouraged residents to properly remove and replace these invasive trees. Hendersonville's first NC Bradford Pear Bounty exchange went smoothly, no rain occurred, and those who came by to pick up trees to replace the Bradford Pears that they had cut down were happy with the variety and good quality of

their free trees. Over 100 trees were given out. Participants had pre-registered, so on Sat., May 4, they checked in and showed the photo of the tree(s) they had cut down to volunteers who greeted them. They were given a list of the variety of trees available ... they stopped by Stop #2 to get advice about the best tree to pick, and then pulled around the City Operations Center building to Stop #3, where volunteers loaded their trees and provided bagged mulch to help the trees get a good start. Participants helped the NC Bradford Pear Exchange program by filling out a survey to provide information on why they wanted to participate in the exchange, how they heard about the event, and so on. Pawpaw, redbud, tulip poplar, Virginia pine, white oak, beech, serviceberry, sourwood – a total of 17 varieties of trees were available to choose from. Tree Board member Mary Davis helped organize the event and many volunteers helped do the check-in, give advice on tree care, and load trees and bags of mulch.



*Saturday, April 20 – Hendo Earth Fest event on Main Street. 10 am- 3 pm.* Bee City USA and Tree Board had booths at this second annual Fest, sponsored by Environmental Sustainability Board. Many organizations involved in environmental, conservation, and sustainability efforts in the region participated. The TB organized a drawing for a lovely specimen Flame Azalea, spearheaded by Tree Board member Natalie Wilcoxon. More than 100 visitors to the Tree Board booth were reported.

*Early April – NeighborWoods Tree Planting Projects.* Participants were Oklawaha Village, Henderson Village, Blue Ridge Villas, Park Place, and Druid Hills neighborhood ... a total of 62 trees, including dogwoods, redbuds, sweetbay and saucer magnolias, serviceberry, crabapple, and red oak were planted at those locations. The trees were planted in honor of recently retired TB Chair Mac Brackett.

*Monday, February 26 -- All About Caring for the Trees in Your Backyard. 5-6:30 pm.* Hendersonville Operations Center, 305 Williams St. Steve Pettis, horticultural agent with Cooperative Extension Service, presented an informative program with photo examples of pruning problems, girdled trees and how to remedy them, the unfriendly relationship between grass and trees, mulching issues, and more. Approximately 35 home and property owners attended. The Q&A afterward was lively and helpful as well. Sponsored for the public at no charge by the Tree Board in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension.



**TREE CITY USA®**

An Arbor Day Foundation Program