



# CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD MEETING

Operations Center - Second Floor Conference Room | 305 Williams St. |  
Hendersonville NC 28792  
Monday, April 13, 2026 – 4:00 PM

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## AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes

4. **BUSINESS**

A. Review 2025 Bee City Annual Report - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

B. Bradford Pear Bounty & Neighborwoods Update - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

Neighborwoods:

Pickup Saturday, April 25th from 9-11am

Need 1 volunteer to help Neighborwoods participant plant 2 Redbuds

Need 2-3 volunteers to help plant Neighborwoods, Brookside 8 trees

Need 2-3 volunteers day of event to help direct people for tree pickup.

Neighborwoods trees will be marked with participant's name and grouped away from the Bradford Pear Bounty trees so volunteers make sure to check before giving away.

Bradford Pear Bounty

154 trees reserved (120 trees ordered; 160 max registration)

C. Hendo Earth Fest Update - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

Confirm board members tabling

Mickey Lively delivering 10 gallon Bottlebrush Buckeye for giveaway

Confirm resources needed for exhibit - brochures, advertising Neighborwoods program, etc. Bee City pollinator trail can be promoted at my (Caitlyn's Sustainability Division tent)  
Anything else needed?

- D. Review Tree Board Annual Report - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*
- E. Changing TB Monthly Meeting to First Monday of the Month - *Glenn Lange, Member*
- F. Tree Planting - *Glenn Lange, Member*

Planting Trees on Hendersonville Housing Authority Properties

Planting Additional Trees and Shrubs along Greenway

- G. Update on Letter to City Council - *Glenn Lange, Member*
- H. Addressing Invasive Species along Ecusta Trail - *Glenn Lange, Member*
- I. ESB/TB Meeting - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

## 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

*The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.*



# CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE TREE BOARD MEETING

Operations Center - Second Floor Conference Room | 305 Williams St. |  
Hendersonville NC 28792  
Monday, February 09, 2026 – 4:00 PM

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m. All members present (Skye Williams, Tommy Oakman, Glenn Lange, Natalie Wilcoxon, Ed Skvarch, and Richard Bowerman) except Bill Leatherwood.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Glenn motioned to approve first followed by Ed with the addition of Michelle Garashi-Ellick from Four Seasons Rotary about Arbor Day plans.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of January 2026 meeting minutes – Glenn motioned to approve followed by Ed.

### 4. BUSINESS

#### a. Arbor Day 2026

- i. Tentatively set for April 24th
- ii. Natalie volunteered to reach out to Hendersonville Elementary School to partner with again for this year's Arbor Day
- iii. Michelle will handle refreshments if needed and books
- iv. Caitlyn will procure native tree for planting and will update the press release
- v. Lyndsey confirmed Mayor Volk is able to attend event and read proclamation. Caitlyn is following up with Mayor Volk when date and time is confirmed.

#### b. Vote on moving May and August meeting dates to accommodate with Caitlyn is on maternity leave

- i. Skye motioned to approve first followed by Natalie to move meeting dates to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

#### c. Neighborwoods Update

- i. Spring 2026:
  1. Saddlebrook – 50 trees
  2. Brookside – 8 trees
  3. Natalie is emailing Caitlyn other neighborhood for trees.

#### d. Garden Jubilee Booth - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

- i. From event organizer - they do not have any space left on the street but the board can be given room on the courthouse plaza if booth was set up very nicely with ideally a new tent than what was used last year and make sure to iron tablecloth since this location is the show center.
  1. Lyndsey is working on updating the board's logo and afterwards Caitlyn will purchase a tent.

- e. Update on NC Urban Forest Council membership - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*
  - i. Caitlyn is working on signing the board up.
- f. April Native Gardening Presentation - *Glenn Lange, Member*
  - i. Event is scheduled for the Henderson County Library for April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- g. NC Forest Service Grant Update - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Member*
  - i. Grant application is moving along and will be submitted at the end of February
- h. Bradford Pear Bounty Update - *Glenn Lange, Member*
  - i. Caitlyn is working on organizing event with program partner. 120 trees will be procured for event.
- i. Tree Giveaway Events Planning - *Glenn Lange, Member*
  - i. Tabled until Fall to finalize a date

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm

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# Bee City USA

## Renewal Preview – Report on 2025

### Statistics

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2025 (in total)?

A total of 12 pollinator related events were hosted which include:

- Hendo Earth Fest
- Sponsorship of 10 classrooms for Symbolic Monarch Migration activity
- 6 Farmers Market educational events
- Native rain garden plant giveaway
- Bradford Pear Bounty event
- Tree giveaway event
- Tabling at Garden Jubilee

How many people attended those events (in total)?

Approximately 2,500 attended the above 12 events.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2025?

Approximately 250 habitats were enhanced through native tree giveaways, native rain garden plant giveaways, and Bradford Pear Bounty replacement program.

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

Approximately 67 people assisted with these projects which include volunteers, staff, and board members.

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

All projects benefited monarchs or nectar plantings. The projects listed previously also don't include the 7 existing pollinator garden sites maintained by the City.

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

Estimating that small trees take up approximately 80 square feet, a total of 16,000 sq. ft. of habitat was created with additional sq. ft. of improvements from the native rain garden plant giveaway. The City's Four Seasons Boulevard pollinator garden was also expanded with additional pollinator plants however the total square footage of improvement is not known.

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

X Flower garden

- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- X Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- X Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- X Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- X Rain garden/bioswale
- X Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- X Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- X Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- X Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- X Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
  - Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
  - Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
  - Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
  - Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
  - Dropped pesticide use altogether on city or campus grounds
  - Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
  - Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- X Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

- X Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- X Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)? 4

## Essay Questions

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2025, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

This year City of Hendersonville staff, Environmental Sustainability Board, and Tree Board worked together to host several pollinator conservation events and outreach activities. First was our third annual Hendo Earth Fest which brings an estimated 2,000 visitors and features exhibitors and interactive activities from a wide range of sustainability related focuses. A few pollinator focused exhibitors included Caregivers of Mother Earth, Carolina Nature Tours, City of Hendersonville Tree Board, Bee City, and Environmental Sustainability Board, Henderson County Beekeepers, and more.

During the annual Symbolic Monarch Migration month in September, our Environmental Sustainability Board sponsored 10 classrooms to have an educational activity coloring and sending monarch butterflies to classrooms in Mexico. The Board also tabled at 6 Farmers Market days throughout the year at their Sustainability Demonstration Station which features 2 pollinator and vegetable garden beds. The Board also hosted a native rain garden plant giveaway event which was a great way to teach people how to utilize a small area on their property for pollinator habitat.

Our Tree Board hosted the annual Bradford Pear Bounty program where free native trees (including trees beneficial to pollinators such as Eastern Redbud, Red Maple, and Dogwoods to name a few) were given away to approximately 100 participants who in exchange removed invasive Bradford Pear trees from their property. The Board and City staff also hosted a native tree giveaway to help rebuild lost tree canopy from Hurricane Helene. 100 trees were given away which included many varieties benefiting pollinators. Lastly, the board tabled at Garden Jubilee, an event that attracts around 200,000 people to educate folks on the benefits of native and pollinator trees and plants.

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2025, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

The City’s Tree Board and Environmental Sustainability Board helped community members create pollinator habitats through their native rain garden plant giveaway, Bradford Pear Bounty tree giveaway, and native tree giveaway. The native rain garden plants included Clethra hummingbird which is a native plant attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and numerous native bee species. The other two tree giveaway events featured several native

pollinator tree species including Sycamore, Pignut Hickory, Eastern Redbud, Crabapple, Overcup Oak, and Willow Oak.

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

All our tree maintenance is completed by Leatherwood Wildland Management who maintains an IPM plan and implements non-chemical practices where possible such as using organic horticultural oil, essentially using synthetic pesticides as a last result if organic methods aren't successful or if needed for invasive species removal. Synthetic pesticides and herbicides are never used on pollinator sites.

Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.

The Tree Board maintains a landscape plant list for developers, gardeners, and homeowners.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

There are no new initiatives in this area.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

The City of Hendersonville Public Works Department employees (not committee) are trained in best practices for IPM and pesticides are not used within pollinator habitat areas.

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## Photos



Fall tree giveaway



Henderson County Beekeepers Association tabling at Hendo Earth Fest



Pollinator rain garden plant giveaway



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# PROJECTS

## Arbor Day

The Tree Board hosted the annual Arbor Day celebration and tree planting in April. This year trees were planted at Hendersonville Elementary School with Mayor Volk proclaiming April 25 as Tree City Day. Partners included members of the North Carolina Forest Service, Four Seasons Rotary Club, elementary students, and community members.



## Tabling Events

The Tree board outreached at the following City events:

- August - Farmer's Market for Symbolic Monarch Migration Month
- April - Hendo Earth Fest
- May - Garden Jubilee



## NC Bradford Pear Tree Exchange

The Tree Board organized the second annual Bradford Pear Bounty event in partnership with the N.C. Forest Service, supporting a new statewide effort to eliminate invasive Bradford Pear trees. This year, ~~XX~~ Bradford Pear trees were replaced.



## Hurricane Helene Anniversary Tree Giveaway

Due to an Arbor Day Foundation grant received by the City, Tree Board partnered with City staff to host a tree giveaway to help our community rebuild tree canopy lost after Hurricane Helene. 100 native trees were given away at this popular event.

## Neighborwoods

Close to 570 trees have been planted in Hendersonville through the NeighborWoods program since 2010. For this fiscal year, **XX** trees were planted at the following sites:

- Saddle Brook Development
- Druid Hills



Item D.



## Pollinator Bed Maintenance

As part of the City's Bee City commitment, **X** pollinator beds are maintained and funded by the Tree Board. These sites provide our community with a real word example of pollinator gardening and showcases our commitment to being a Bee City. Sites include:

- Four Seasons Boulevard
- Oakdale Cemetery beds
- Bee Mural bed

# 2026 GOALS

- Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Tree canopy assessment post Hurricane Helene
- Outreach & education