

## Bee City USA – 2018 Update



On Feb. 10, 2018, the City of Denton hosted its fourth annual Honey Run event. This was another successful event complete with more than 500 participants in the fun run. This is a daylong event geared toward promoting bee awareness throughout the community. The first 500 run registrants received a free T-shirt, and the first 500 finishers received mini honey dipper as a medal. After the race, participants were able to meet with local beekeepers and sample locally produced honey. After the run and honey tasting, we hosted an intro to beekeeping workshop for more than 100 individuals. Throughout the year, we hosted two more classes focusing on honeybees. These classes had 44 participants and were taught by members of the Denton County Beekeepers Association (DCBA). The City also partnered with DCBA to help distribute 1,000 seed packets containing “bee happy” native seed mix.

The Sustainability Department also hosted 10 additional gardening workshops during the spring and fall. These gardening workshops have a combined attendance of more than 350 participants. The workshops provided a learning opportunity for members in the community, as well as hands-on garden experience. During the classes, instructors discuss what types of native flowers and plants will help attract and support bee populations. Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (CCNHC) has six different gardens that all implement organic and sustainable bio-intensive gardening practices. These gardens serve as a variety of native plant and pollinator-themed demonstration gardens. Clear Creek contributes to the seed library at the Emily Fowler Library where citizens can get free flower seeds. CCNHC has partnered with the Denton Independent School District to provide outdoor learning opportunities to children of all ages. The facility provides a hands-on learning opportunity to the entire class. Schools will schedule times to come out to the property throughout the year and take children on a nature hikes. Almost 5,000 Denton ISD students visit Clear Creek each year.

In 2019, Denton plans to continue participating in Bee City USA by increasing the number of workshops and participants. We also hope to collaborate more with local associations to support pollinators in and around the community.

