



# Avian and Pollinator Monitoring for Wildlife Habitat Council



green window skimmer

- A nonprofit started by corporate executives to develop and maintain wildlife habitat.
- Recognizes habitat efforts to preserve and enhance biodiversity through a certification program.
- Projects can be certified under 25 different project types.

# WHC Certification

- WSSI's Gainesville office certifications:
  - Forest: RPA
  - Green Infrastructure: Green Roof
  - Landscaped: Natural Landscaping
- Projects are voluntary and require recertification every two years.
- WSSI maintains the certifications and conducts monitoring.



eastern bluebird



# In the Natural Landscape Areas...

- Weekly pollinator monitoring
- Annual vegetation monitoring
- Maintenance as needed



butterfly milkweed



unequal cellophane bee



# Natural Landscape Monitoring Areas



front berm



green roof



side of building

# Conducting Pollinator Monitoring

- Record weather data
- ~10 minutes of visual monitoring at each location
- Record pollinator observations (number, species, location)
- If possible, photograph the pollinators



locust borer on a goldenrod



# WSSI Insects Monitoring Log

Please take photos of all species recorded, if possible

Name of Observer(s): Clara Buchen

Temperature: 74 F

Cloud Cover:

clear or few(<20%); partly (20-50%); mostly cloudy (>50%)

Beaufort wind speed: 5

Beaufort wind speed: 0=calm, smoke rises vertically; 1=light air, smoke drifts; 2=slight breeze, leaves rustle, wind felt on face

3=gentle breeze, leaves & twigs in motion; 4=moderate breeze, small branches move, raises dust/paper; 5=fresh breeze, small trees in leave sway

6=strong breeze large branches sway; 7=moderate gale, whole trees in motion, resistance felt while walking in wind

Species	# Observed	Plant Name & Direction Facing	Photo #	Comments
Common name - scientific name				
Common Eastern Bumblebee- <i>Bombus impatiens</i>	25	Butterfly Milkweed- <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> & Hemp Dogbane- <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	12	
European Honeybee- <i>Apis mellifera</i>	17	Hemp Dogbane- <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	15	
Brown-belted Bumblebee- <i>Bombus griseocollis</i>	7	Hemp Dogbane- <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	11	
Texas Leafcutter Bee- <i>Megachile texana</i>	1	Butterfly Milkweed- <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	9	

Location, Side of Building

Date: 06-11-2024

Start / Finish Time: 1:40-2:02 PM



large milkweed bugs



transverse-banded flower fly



Huron Sachem skipper



summer azure



flying ant species



# Native Landscape Results/Observations

- 2023-2024: documented a variety of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, spiders, crickets, moths, and other insects.
- During the 2024 vegetation monitoring:
  - Front berm: 59 species, including 52 native species (88% native).
  - Side of building: 25 species, including 21 native species (84% native).



common eastern bumblebee

# Avian Monitoring – Nest Boxes

- Weekly inspection of 5 bluebird nest boxes and five chickadee nest boxes.
- Identify species, note avian activity, and complete monitoring log.
- Photograph avian species and nest box conditions.





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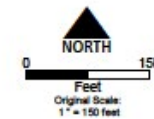


- WSSI - Gainesville Office
- Natural Landscaping: ±0.28 acres
- ◆ Blue Bird Box
- ◆ Chickadee Bird Box
- ◆ Owl Box
- ◆ Bird Feeder

Photo Source: October 2024 Nearmap®

**Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.**  
a DAVEY company

**Natural Landscaping Location Map**  
**WSSI WHC - Landscaping Project**  
**WSSI #11295.09**



*Exhibit 2*

VBS Weekly Nest Box Monitor Form  
(Use one form for each nest box, one row per visit)

Box Number: 3					Trail Name: WSSI					Year: 2024		
Month	Day	Species	Empty Box	Partial Nest	Complete Nest	No. of Eggs	No. of Young	Age of young** (days)	No. Fledged	Comments, notes to next week's monitor Examples: *Season's first egg laid/date    * Unhatched eggs left? * hatch dates                                * Predation? * Fledge dates                                snake? wren? Sparrow? * White eggs?                                racoon? other? Unk agent? *Don't open box next time    Missing/broken eggs? (chicks near to fledging)    dead/missing chicks, adults?	Monitor's initials	
03	19		X								LR & CB	
03	28		X								CB	
04	01		X								CB	



# Avian Monitoring- 2024 Results

- 8 out of 10 boxes showed signs of usage, or had birds observed throughout the nesting season.
- Nest Box 2: seven house wren young were noted and fledged.
- Nest Box 3: two house wrens fledged.
- Nest Box 5: one house wren fledged.
- In 2023, 4 eastern bluebirds fledged.



House Wren



# Avian Monitoring- Bird Feeders

- Two bird feeders.
- Specific seed blend to attract native species.
- Trail cam to monitor activities at one feeder.



Cabela's

37 °F )

01-04-2025 14:09:55



# The feeders attract more than just birds...



# 2025 WHC Monitoring

- If you work at the Gainesville office and are interested in being added to the WHC team, please reach out to Clara Buchen or Jen Feese.
- 2025 monitoring will begin the week of March 17<sup>th</sup>
- All training materials and protocols for monitoring are on intranet



Common Eastern Bumblebee



Please take photos of wildlife around the office and send them to Clara, Jen, or Emily. We can use them in our recertification!



Barn Owl



Northern Parula

Many of the avian photos in this presentation are courtesy of John Mullen.



There's no  
one better  
in the field!

