

Bee City USA - Carson City

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 2020 completed a habitat enhancement project at the Carson City Foothill Garden to dovetail with the construction of the Bee Hotel that was completed in 2019. In April 2020, the Leadership Class members gathered to plant approximately 20 pollinator friendly trees to provide forage for the mason bees that live in the Bee Hotel. In addition to that planting project, the Leadership class also worked with a local artist to design several pollinator themed art pieces that were installed along the Serenity Trail, which is adjacent to the Bee Hotel and pollinator garden. The Serenity Trail is considered a 'prescriptive' wellness trail by the nearby Carson Tahoe Cancer Center, and they often prescribe this short walking trail to patients and their families. The art pieces include depictions of pollinators and words of perseverance and encouragement. Additionally, in coordination with the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, the Planning Division and the Public Works Department, staff worked with contractors to require 50% of the plant palette selection for developments and street improvement projects to be selected from Carson City Pollinator Friendly Planting list. Several projects were completed in 2020 and the plant palette was heavily weighted with pollinator friendly species. Examples of plants includes lavender, Russian sage, penstemon, yarrow, primrose, and Rocky Mountain bee plant. Specific projects completed included the South Carson Complete Streets Project, the Curry Street Project and Schulz Ranch Park and Detention Basin Project. An excess of 1,000 individual flowering plants were installed as a component of these projects. These projects are prominent streets in Carson City and hopefully will increase residents' awareness of pollinator friendly species while increasing the forage available throughout the City. In addition, several pollinator friendly species were planted throughout Parks Department properties, including 15 pollinator friendly trees and approximately 100 lilacs planted at the Lone Mountain Cemetery. Lastly, several restoration projects were completed in disturbed areas, either from wildfire or new trail construction and these areas were seeded with a native plant blend which included native flowers.



Bee City USA #76: Chamber Leadership members planting pollinator friendly trees for Arbor Day (Credit: Adam Shochat).

Bee City USA #76: Chamber Leadership members planting pollinator friendly trees for Arbor Day (Credit: Adam Shochat).

Bee City USA #76: Pollinator art added to the Serenity Trail, which is adjacent to the Bee Hotel and pollinator garden (Credit: Lyndsey Boyer).

Education & Outreach

In 2020, despite immense challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, Carson City was still able to host a few events to celebrate and promote pollinator conservation in our community. In January 2020, the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee held an event at the Community Center where one of our members gave a presentation entitled, "So you Want to Be a Beekeeper," and another member of the Board provided a presentation entitled, "Forage for Pollinators." Fairly soon after this event was held, the pandemic reached Carson City and we had to learn how to adapt to a new world. Despite the fact that in-person education events were not able to be held for much of 2020, we were still able to promote pollinator conservation in other ways. Members from our Board worked to create a display at the Carson City Library during June's Pollinator month to celebrate pollinator conservation in our community. This display included photos and information about bees and pollinator habitat, while also highlighting beekeeping activities. Given closures early on from the pandemic, the Carson City Library provided much needed distraction and solace for our residents. As a result, a lot of people were able to see our display while at the library picking up books. We also worked with the local Carson City morning show, called "Good Day Carson" to put together an educational video to promote Bee City USA, our pollinator garden and Bee Hotel. In addition to our feature on local TV, we also worked to prepare several information articles for the local newspaper, CarsonNow to celebrate Bee City USA and our efforts throughout Carson City, and to continue trying to get the word out about Bee City and pollinators to Carson City residents. Lastly, to celebrate the completion of the 2020 Carson City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class a socially distanced ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Foothill Pollinator Garden to celebrate the habitat enhancement project completed at the Carson City Bee Hotel. More information on this project is outlined below, but the event was attended by Carson City leadership - including the Mayor, City Manager and Board of Supervisors. This project highlights how excited Carson City is about our Bee City USA #76 designation and the community's willingness to rally around pollinator conservation.



Bee City USA #76: Carson City Library - Pollinator Month Display (Credit: Linda Groves)

Bee City USA #76: Bee City USA signage was added to this display located on the Bee Hotel (Credit: Lyndsey Boyer).

Bee City USA #76: Plaque dedicated to the Chamber Leadership Class of 2019 and 2020 from the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada for their support of pollinators (Credit: Lyndsey Boyer).

Policies & Practices

Several actions were taken in 2020 to make pest management more pollinator friendly. Some examples include continuing to implement an herbicide free program for maintaining the vegetation around the Foothill Garden and Bee Hotel site, given that this site hosts organic food production, in addition to a Bee Hotel habitat. Other methods such as solarization are used to treat noxious weeds in this location as an alternative to chemical herbicides. Additionally, both the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, as well as Carson City Public Works Department continued to utilize integrated pest management techniques wherever possible. This includes removing weedy vegetation manually along trails or in sensitive habitats such as wetlands. This practice was also implemented at the Carson City Rifle and Pistol Range this year to remove vegetation for fire prevention purposes; removal was completed with equipment rather than herbicide. Additionally, Carson City implemented the 14th year of fuel reduction utilizing sheep grazing on the west side of Carson City. Utilizing sheep, Carson City can reduce fine fuel across 2,000 acres on the landscape with non-chemical means. Additionally, staff work to clear detention basins using mechanical removal rather than herbicide. Staff also worked with a small volunteer group in June of 2020 to mechanically remove the invasive plant bull thistle from an agricultural area adjacent to the Carson River. In addition to some of the alternatives to herbicides outlined above, Carson City staff have also worked to implement a staff training program for seasonal maintenance staff related to integrated pest management, proper plant ID and restoration. Proper training for staff has empowered them to make greater considerations related to pollinator populations when determining treatment methods.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Carson City Integrated Pest Management Plan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator Friendly Plant List.xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:
carson.org/beecityusa





Bee City USA #76: Signage installed at the Foothill Garden - Bee Hotel and Pollinator Garden. This is an organic site and herbicides are not used (Credit: Lyndsey Boyer).

[Learn More](#)





Bee City USA #76: 2020 Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee (Credit: Myrna Barber).

