

Bee City USA - Bellevue

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Native habitat spaces were added to several public parks, libraries, schools, and public access points of private residences. We focused on native plants produced by local growers, adding thousands of plant plugs across the city in 2022. We also collaborated with Bellevue Native Plant Society to maintain public rain gardens, adding additional native plant species and removing invasives.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

12

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

20000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

20

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden



One of the area pollinator habitats added in the community, to Montclair elementary school. This hillside was only mulch, and approximately 2,000 plants (grown by Bellevue University faculty) were added by volunteers in support of Bee City USA efforts.



Pollinator habitat at the native plant hillside at Bellevue University, which is planted and maintained in accordance with Bee City USA efforts.

Education & Outreach

Pollinator habitat plantings and maintenance (across nearly a dozen sites, multiple events per year; partly hosted by Bee City USA, partly hosted by Milkweed Matters, Bellevue Native Plant Society, Green Bellevue) Informative tours of pollinator gardens (teaching public about the pollinators) (sponsored by Green Bellevue and Bee City USA) Multiple educational seminars by Bee City USA committee members (topics ranging from pollinator habitat to IPM in residences to insect biodiversity)

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

300

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

1

Did your city council/county commission (highest elected body) issue a proclamation for National Pollinator Week last summer?

Please note: this is now an optional activity.

- Yes



Volunteers help maintain a rain garden on Bellevue University campus as part of the Bee City USA efforts to improve pollinator habitat.



Tyler Moore adds *Liatris punctata* plugs to the Bellevue Library pollinator garden as part of the Bee City USA habitat efforts.



Don Preister and others plant plugs and spread mulch at the new Whispering Timbers pollinator garden in Bellevue, as part of the Bee City USA efforts.

Policies & Practices

We have reduced the amount of city-managed lawn that is turf, and thus reduced the overall pesticide usage in the city (they do not treat any of the pollinator planting areas). We have worked with the city to limit aesthetic herbicide and insecticide use, so they have significantly limited the use of pre-emergent herbicides and grub killers in turf areas. However, these practices have not been wholly eliminated to date because certain public turf is heavily utilized for sports and require more abrasive management. Efforts are ongoing.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- 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)
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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>)

- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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.

Yes. We are continuing to work with the city to determine how we can reduce pesticide usage and increase native planting space. We are meeting with the parks department regularly to see how our IPM plan fits in with current practices and the needs of other stakeholders in the community.

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

We do not have any legislative policies underway. Currently, our efforts are focused on voluntary reduction of pesticides by the city and by residence. We have received overwhelming support for these efforts, but we have been met with strong resistance for restrictive legislation or ordinances.

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

We are using the most current literature to develop our IPM plan. We met with the City of Bellevue with regards to the plan, and they are essentially following all aspects of the plan. However, there is some resistance to broadcasting the plan as an enforceable policy for fear of retribution for failures to adhere. This is an ongoing discussion to not be off-putting by heavy-handed authoritarian approaches, but to collaborate with the city to reduce pesticide usage. So far, we have been quite successful.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.facebook.com/midwestnatives>

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