Bee City USA - Eugene

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

In 2022, major habitat improvement projects in City of Eugene Parks and Open Space natural areas included approximately 200 acres (8,712,000 square feet) of wet prairie, upland prairie, oak, conifer forest, and riparian areas. Numerous small-scale projects (area not tracked) were undertaken in park landscape beds, bioswales, ornamental gardens, and by plot owners in community gardens. The City of Eugene coordinated many habitat conservation and rehabilitation projects last year, not hosted by Bee City. This consisted of weekly volunteer work parties at the City's Native Plant Nursery cultivating native plants and seed for restoration projects; Weekly volunteer work parties in the Rhododendron Garden and Native Plant Garden at Hendricks Park, and monthly volunteer work parties in the Hendricks Park forest, focused on maintaining plantings, removing invasive species, and planting native species; Regular work parties at Rasor Park, continuing a successful community-led project to restore native flowering plants and grasses alongside the Willamette River. Hosted by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Spaces. Volunteers spent 16,250 hours working on enhancements to waterway and natural areas in 2022. Volunteers planted 592 trees and nearly 18,000 shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns, as well as participated in weekly events at the City's Native Plant Nursery.

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

8

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

8712000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

200

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden

Education & Outreach

1. Westmoreland Wetlands Restoration Project – members of our committee and affiliate groups coordinated multiple work parties to engage local communities in prairie habitat restoration/rehabilitation with a focus on native, flowering plants. Not hosted by the Bee City Committee, but by individual members of our group. Not hosted by the Bee City Committee, but by individual members of our group. 2. Adams Elementary School garden + El Camino del Rio Elementary School garden – Some of our committee worked to control invasive plants and support native pollinator plants at a local elementary school garden. Not hosted by the Bee City Committee, but by individual members of our group. -weeded and planted native pollinator plants. 3. Churchill community garden pollinator patch work parties – We worked to grow and upkeep an educational "pollinator patch" in a local, low-income food-growing space to engage international food growers in Oregon's native edible plants and their benefits to pollinators and food security. Hosted by individual committee members. 4. 11th Annual Awbrey Wildflower Celebration – An in-person celebration of Awbrey Park including booths about plants and flowers, wildflower tours, plant education materials and plant giveaways. Hosted by individual Bee City members. 5. Bee surveys – Working with local families and commuities to catch and identify bee genera with the help of local Bee City committee members, at the Whilamut Natural Area in Alton Baker Park and Rasor Park. Hosted by Bee City. 6. Native pollinators and native plants (in-person + virtual) – Hosted by Bee City. Guest speakers shared photos and stories about Oregon's native pollinating insects and their unique biology and the native plants that support them. 7. Lights out to protect birds and insects (in-person + virtual) – Hosted by individual member of our Bee City committee. Educational event to inspire people to learn about and protect our amazing wildlife and understand the impact of lighting on birds and flying insects. 8. Bee Jazzy – Hosted by individual Bee City Committee members. An annual fundraiser to support Beyond Toxics, our local environmental justice non-profit that works to reduce pesticides, pollution, and many other environmental toxics. This is an annual celebration of bees and involves live music, beverages, dancing and a pollinator friendly silent auction. 9. Bee Walk at Mount Pisgah Arboretum with Huerto de la Familia, a bilingual walk with Huerto De la Familia members and staff touring native bees at the Arboretum in June and discussing native bees in the garden. 10. Bee Walk at Mount Pisgah Arboretum with WREN's Wetland Wanders A walk in September exploring late summer bees and the native plants they rely on. 11. Bee Walk at Mount Pisgah Arboretum with Osher Life Long Learning

Institute A walk in early June exploring native bees at the Arboretum. 12. Several more public wee walks at Mount Pisgah Arboretum – public are invited to join our committee member, August Jackson, during walks in April, May and June exploring the spring native bee fauna at the Arboretum and discussing native bees and habitat notes. 13. Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Blooms Walk at Mount Pisgah Arboretum A walk in late April exploring native plants and pollinators at the Arboretum during peak blooms. 14. Wildflower Festival – Hosted by Mount Pisgah Arboretum during the spring time to celebrate blooms, bees and nature. The public is invited to the Arboretum to enjoy live music, food, native plant sales, educational kiosks and activities, hikes, local vendors, engage with local nonprofits and many fun activities. 15. Native Plant Nursery Tours with Eugene Garden Club and Nearby Nature – These tours are part of the city's initiative to raise awareness and education about native flowering plants and the many native wildlife species they support. They also address first foods and historical uses of native plants in the Willamette Valley.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?
20

How many people attended those events (in total)?
1000

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.

- No

Volunteer excitement about catching their first bees at the Rasor Park Bee Count. (all bees were gently handled, identified, then released where they were caught)

Volunteers working to prune a pesticide-free filbert orchard near a Native Plant Nursery and popular bee habitat.

Handling a bee during the Rasor Park Bee survey so that we can identify it's genus. (All bees were gently handled, identified, then released where they were caught)

Policies & Practices

The City implements an IPM approach that requires consideration of manual and mechanical methods before utilizing pesticides. We use techniques such as pulling, cutting, lopping, propane flaming and mowing when feasible to remove non-native plants from natural areas and weeds from landscape beds. We hire contractors, seasonal workers, and also work with volunteers to accomplish this manual/mechanical removal. Some of the species we frequently remove this way are English ivy, false brome, and invasive geranium species. Non-native grasses are addressed in small, high-quality areas through weed-whipping to prevent seed production, smothering with shade-cloth, and mowing. When pesticides are used, we select the least toxic and most effective treatments, and applications are made by experienced, state-licensed staff and contractors. There are 10 designated pesticide free parks in the City, and most parks have areas that are pesticide free, including a 25-foot buffer around all playgrounds and exercise stations, stormwater catch basins and inlets, picnic areas, community gardens, outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, water spray features, and dog parks.

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)
- 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
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides 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)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- 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.

Not officially. Beyond Toxics works with local agencies, businesses and communities to help raise awareness about the harmful impacts of pesticides and encourage people to support land and soil without the use of synthetic chemical inputs.

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

Not yet. Stay tuned!

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?

City natural areas staff meet monthly to discuss natural areas management in the different habitats within our parks, including pest control, which for us is almost exclusively related to vegetation. Topics include level of impact of the pest (ie, whether control is warranted), best management strategies, and planning, which supports the approach of using manual and mechanical methods to control weeds when feasible. Staff with pesticide applicator licenses go to annual trainings to maintain current knowledge regarding any pesticides they might use in the course of their work. Staff gather annually to review the City's IPM Policy and Operations Manual and make updates as needed (https://www.eugene-or.gov/638/Integrated-Pest-Management). Our IPM Policy contains all of the elements Xerces recommends in their "Pollinator Protection for Cities and Campuses" document.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:
https://www.eugene-or.gov/638/Integrated-Pest-Management
Recommended Native Plant List:
https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37893/Native-Plant-Alternatives?bidId=

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for Invertebrate Conservation