

Bee City USA - Gillette

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

We are allowing Milkweed to grow as volunteers in various planters throughout the City. The City of Gillette Parks Board created a native habitat pollinator garden.

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

1

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

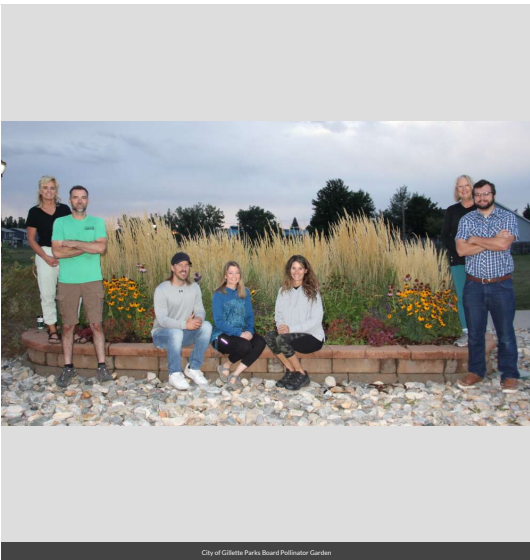
168

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

9

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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



City of Gillette Parks Board Pollinator Garden



Awaiting new pollinator sign to be placed.



Education & Outreach

The Master Gardeners of Campbell County had 5 pollinator counts during 2022. The results are as follows: September: 19 native bees, 3 honeybees, 1 wasp, 21 flies, 27 butterflies and moths, 1 boxelder bug, 2 bumble bees, 1 dragonfly, 1 beetle August: 186 native bees, 12 honeybees, 1 wasp, 43 flies, 6 butterflies and moths, 1 beetle, 5 dragonflies July: 47 native bees, 2 honeybees, 94 flies, 3 butterflies and moths, 5 dragonflies June: 11 native bees, 1 honeybee, 1 wasp, 18 flies, 2 butterflies and moths May: 1 native bee, 67 flies, 34 butterflies and moths

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)?

10

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

4

*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

Policies & Practices

The City of Gillette uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at every opportunity to minimize the use of pesticides and prioritize non chemical control methods. Mainly mechanical means of removal. The City of Gillette only uses chemical applications when absolutely necessary. We strive to keep herbicide use strictly to noxious weed. Chemical applications are applied when pollinators are less active in the early morning hours and avoid spraying mid-day. The City of Gillette allows certain plants such as Milkweed to volunteer throughout our planters in our parks and right-of-ways.

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**
- **Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied**
- **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>)**
- **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>)**

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.

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

The City of Gillette limits most chemical applications to noxious weeds only!

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?

Completion of several IPM Webinars in 2022: Invasive Woody Plant Management, Identification and Management of Hemlock Pests, Integrated Tick Management, Managing Bed Bugs with Limited Resources, Terrible Tree Destroyers: Termites & Carpenter Ants, Managing Common Indoor Pests: Cockroaches, Rodents & Fleas, Read the Label – Pesticide Label, Reducing Pesticides in Water Systems Specific to Tribal Lands, Protecting our Honey Bee Pollinators: IPM for Varroa Mites, Managing Pests of White Pines, Identifying and Managing Toxic Plants, Asian Longhorned Beetle

Control Updates.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management in the Landscape.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [17-052_01_XercesSoc_PollinatorPlants_Northern-Plains_web-3page.pdf](#)
https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists?field_state_target_id=103

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

City of Gillette Parks Division Integrated Pest Management in the Landscape

The City of Gillette Parks Division provides a strategic approach of Integrated Pest Management to effectively manage insect pests in the landscape by using economically and environmentally sustainable practices. Actions are taken only when necessary. As a rule, the City of Gillette Parks Division rarely sprays for pests but focuses more on efforts to control noxious weeds.

The goal of the City of Gillette Parks Division is not to eliminate insect pests, but rather to strengthen and stabilize the landscape (ecosystem) so that conditions are more favorable for plants than they are for pests. This is achieved by employing a combination of practices to prevent or avoid anticipated pest problems rather than treating them once they occur through efforts of biological control. Treatment decisions are based on information derived from site-specific scouting and monitoring practices. Action can be taken in a timely manner to prevent significant problems by using the most environmentally-friendly and cost-effective combination of cultural or mechanical, biological and when justified, chemical methods available.

It is of highest regard the City of Gillette Parks Division provide a safe and healthy environment for beneficial insects (i.e. butterflies and honeybees) as well as beneficial organisms.

Goals:

- Protect human health and the surrounding environment by employing a range of preventative strategies and using least-toxic products for pest control and eradication.
- Inspect and monitor pest populations to enhance control strategies.
- Minimize the quantity and toxicity of chemicals used for pest management
- Minimize environmental impacts by using species-specific pesticides and targeting application areas carefully
- Establish clear criteria for acceptable circumstances in which using a pesticide other than a least-toxic pesticide is necessary, toxic pesticides shall only be used when there is a threat to public health and safety, or to prevent economic or environmental damage, and only after other alternatives have been implemented and are shown to be ineffective.

Integrated Pest Management procedures which the City of Gillette Parks Division regularly applies in the landscape:

1. **Pest Prevention:**
 - The use of disease and insect resistant plants shall be utilized.
 - Monitor plants early to catch problems early.
 - Encourage birds in controlling insects. (Fruiting trees and shrubs to promote wildlife habitat.)
 - Proper identification of pests before a treatment is recommended.
2. **Attract Beneficial Insects When Possible:**
 - Promote plant material that is pollinator friendly. (i.e. Adopt a Planter, New Landscaping)
 - Promote pollinator habitat. (i.e. groundcovers, grasses, rocks)
3. **Natural Enemy Population Introduction:**
 - When applicable introduce natural enemies. (i.e. Test plot @ ECSC for Toadflax)
4. **Application of Lowest Possible Toxicity as Last Resort:**
 - When spraying is necessary, the City of Gillette Parks Division will select a narrow spectrum product whenever possible. This may include naturally, derived products such as pyrethrum and rotenone as well as chemical products.
 - Avoid over-use of pesticides to avoid pest resistance.
 - Use of low toxicity insecticide with the least possibility of harming insect eating birds or other creatures.

- Treat only affected areas.
- When applicable, choose products that break down quickly.

Diagnose, Monitor, Assess, Act

- Identify pest(s) and/or symptom(s)
- Monitor density/incidence/severity
- Assess pest biology/life history in relation to plant development/ production
- Target "windows of opportunity"
- Consider pest management options/ timings
- Follow-up assessment

When chemical control is the last available source of pest control, methods of control will be chosen with the least amount of toxicity and environmental impact including only spraying only affected areas of outbreak. Particularly, with a type of control which can be applied systemically rather than applied externally.

Integrated Pest Management

- Avoid planting trees attractive to borers, such as birch, poplars, aspen, ash, and willows
- Maintain tree health- stressed trees are more prone to attack (drought, heat, winter injury).
- Water and fertilize trees.
- Windows of opportunity for maximum benefit of adult emergence.
- Good lawn care practices (Fertilize, Mow Aerate, Irrigate, & De-thatch)
- Select more tolerant turf species and varieties.
- Careful application of herbicide drift and runoff when using chemicals.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES RECENTLY APPLIED:

- *Soft scale on Pine Trees @ Dalbey Park (High pressure water to "wash off" soft scale.*
- *Manually removing Toadflax in Energy Capital Sports Complex tree line.*
- *BENEFICIAL INSECT: Toadflax weevil on test plot at Energy Capital Sports Complex.*
- *The use of wasp traps at City Park.*
- *Systemic treatment of Oyster Shell Scale @ Dalbey Park.*
- *Spot spray weed infestations.*
- *Avoid spraying if pollinators are present.*
- *Mosquito growth regulators in standing water.*
- *Promote the growth of the common Milkweed as an important habitat and food source for the Monarch butterfly.*

Integrated Pest Management Document

Learn More

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City of Gillette Parks and Beautification Board