

Bee City USA - Hillsboro

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Hillsboro has a rigorous habitat restoration program, which focuses on enhancing native habitat communities and wildlife populations through the preservation and restoration of ecological features and functions. Over the last year the City of Hillsboro conducted multiple habitat enhancement events across a variety of significant natural resource area including wetlands, riparian corridors, wet prairie, and upland prairie habitats. The largest ongoing restoration project managed by the city is located at Jackson Bottom Wetlands, which is a 635-acre wildlife preserve. Over the past decade, the city has been working to restore over 450 acres of the preserve to functioning wetland ecosystems that supports diverse native plant communities and the wildlife and pollinators that rely on those habitats. In 2022, the City of Hillsboro actively removed invasive species across the preserve, installed over 30,000 native woody and herbaceous plants, seeded herbaceous understory vegetation, and continued establishing pollinator habitats as part of the ongoing enhancement work. We hosted four major events with over 207 volunteers (i.e., 828 hours) who installed over 5,000 containerized woody and herbaceous plants. Two pollinator focused events that installed over 10,000 common camas bulbs and 2,000 showy milkweed plugs. As part of our enhancement projects, we also installed wildlife habitat structures including root wads, brush piles, and logs, that mimic essential habitat features (such as snags) which are a product of mature ecosystems, and thus take a long time to form. Another significant enhancement project managed by the City of Hillsboro is our Orenco Woods Nature Park, where we have been working on establishing native woody vegetation along the riparian corridor and oak prairie habitat in the uplands. In 2022, volunteers helped to create a monarch waystation that was planted with showy milkweed and other nectar producing plants. Additionally, in 2022 we had multiple events at community gardens around the City of Hillsboro that engaged with gardeners and the public, teaching them about the importance of milkweed and nectar-producing plants. Multiple groups worked together to create sustainable, environmentally friendly, pollinator-friendly planters at the garden to attract and feed our pollinator friends – specifically monarch butterflies and bees. At our Sonrise Community Garden, members planted crimson clover along the delivery road at the garden to attract and nourish pollinators.

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?

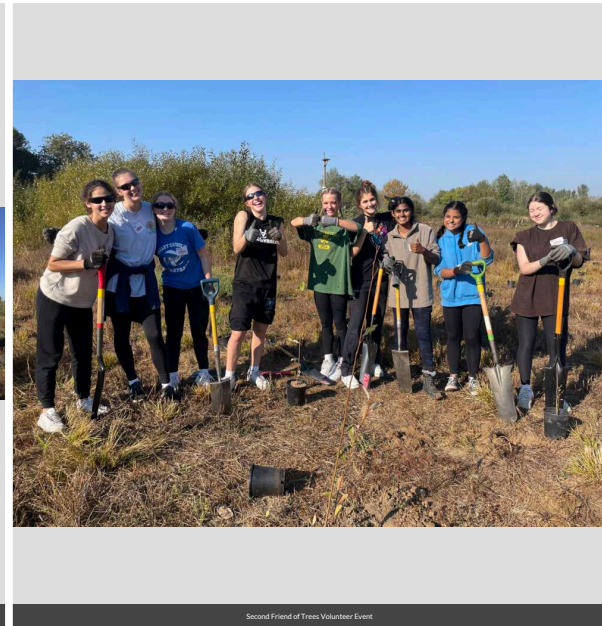
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How many volunteers helped with those projects?

207

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Education & Outreach

In 2022, Hillsboro hosted multiple pollinator focused events including the fourth annual Jackson Bottom Wetlands Pollinator Palooza where we welcomed our community to celebrate all things pollinators with a day full of honey tasting, crafts, education, a live beehive, and so much more. Partners for this event included Xerces society, Friends of Trees, Oregon Bee Atlas, Washington County Master Gardner, and Soil and Hive. Some of our other significant pollinator events includes our annual Arbor Day event where environmental educators taught over 465 children about the importance of natural areas, native trees, and the wildlife and pollinators that depend on them and our Earth Day event where 191

community members learned about ecosystems, native plants, and pollinators through hands-on activities, orchard mason bee classes, arts and crafts, animal interactions, and a native plant giveaway. Additional programs that supported native pollinator conservation include:

- Public programming that offered classes on 1) “Tiny Tadpoles Bugs & Insects” where parents and toddlers were able to explore the wonderful world of creepy crawlies and learn about bees, butterflies, insects, and decomposers, 2) “How to Raise Mason Bees” with information that covers the mason bee life cycle, nesting needs, and behaviors as well as propagation considerations, 3) “Introduction to Oregon Bees” that reviewed native bees in Oregon and why it's important to learn more about them as well as an introduction to the Oregon Bee Atlas and the resources it provides.
- “Wetlands of Wheels” a free outreach program that visits parks across Hillsboro to share nature education and give away free craft kits. In honor of pollinator week our Wetland on Wheels themes in June included Butterflies, Pollinator Adaptations and Bees & Wasps.
- M&M Marketplace where Jackson Bottom staff brought microscopes and hands-on science to the Community Marketplace where visitors dissected flowers and learned about the importance of pollinators.
- “Leave the Leaves” program where key pollinator conservation areas are signed to educate the public about providing habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators, and other invertebrates.
- Pop-Up Arboretums: In April and May self-lead pop-up arboretums featuring native trees in the parks were installed at Shute Park and Rood Bridge Park. This program encouraged community education and engagement with native trees and the benefits they provide to people, nature, wildlife, and pollinators.

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

32

How many people attended those events (in total)?

2442

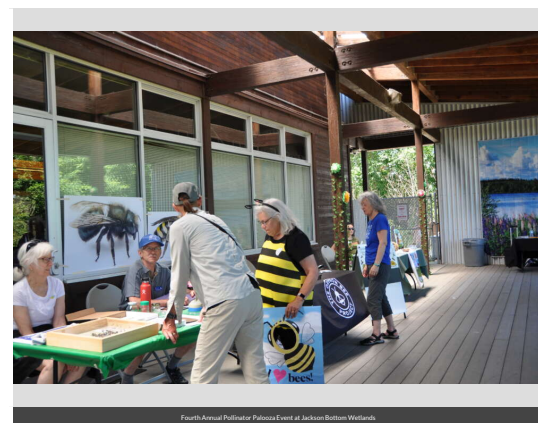
How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

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**



Fourth Annual Pollinator Palooza Event at Jackson Bottom Wetlands



Bee Keeping Station at Annual Arbor Day Event



Orchard Mass. Bee Workshop at Annual Earth Day Event

Policies & Practices

- The City of Hillsboro is continuing to treat multiple invasive species across many natural areas and nature parks, which total more than 400 acres. The primary technique of removing invasive species is mechanical removal (i.e., mowing, hand pulling) or herbicide treatment, depending on the species that are present onsite. Many of these areas have been or are in the process of being seeded and/or planted with pollinator friendly plants. Once the areas have been planted with native plants it will be monitored to keep the invasive species under control. The goal to reduce herbicide use as much as possible within the natural areas by doing minor treatments each year to prevent any invasive species from becoming established.
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands has started to get “No Spray” permits from ODOT to reduce herbicide use and create pollinator friendly right-of-way habitat along the edge of the main parking lot of the preserve.
- The Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Community Garden Program, in partnership with the Hillsboro School District and local churches, manages three organic, pesticide-free garden sites with over 200 hundred garden plots available on a first-come, first-served basis to Hillsboro residents. Gardeners in the program have the opportunity to grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables in privately leased plots and also cooperate with one another to manage the larger community garden site. The City of Hillsboro recognizes community gardening as an activity that contributes to the health and well-being of the wider community as well. Our program promotes community building, sustainable practices, and ecologically responsible gardening.

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)

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?

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?

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Hillsboro - CWS IPM Plan.pdf](https://www.cleanwaterservices.org/media/1289/integrated-pest-management-plan.pdf)

<https://www.cleanwaterservices.org/media/1289/integrated-pest-management-plan.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/01/24/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Nursery or Nurseries - Oregon, OR.pdf](https://www.plantnative.org/nd_or.htm)

http://www.plantnative.org/nd_or.htm



ODOT "No Spray" area along parking lot of Jackson Bottom Wetlands

Learn More

<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/hillsboro-major-projects/bee-city-usa>

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

<https://www.instagram.com/hillsboroparks>

<https://twitter.com/Hillsboroparks>



Minimal herbicide application to control invasive species in pollinator habitats