

Bee City USA - Olympia

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Olympia Bee City USA Committee, which is comprised of Park Stewardship and Public Works Water Resources, held over 100 work parties with volunteers and employees in 2022. The focus was primarily removal of invasive plant species but also involved planting of native trees, shrubs and flowers. In addition, six new pollinator gardens were initiated in parks. In addition, there are initiatives on several City-owned properties to reduce mowing overall through habitat creation and restoration or during critical times to enhance or protect pollinator food sources.

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

39

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

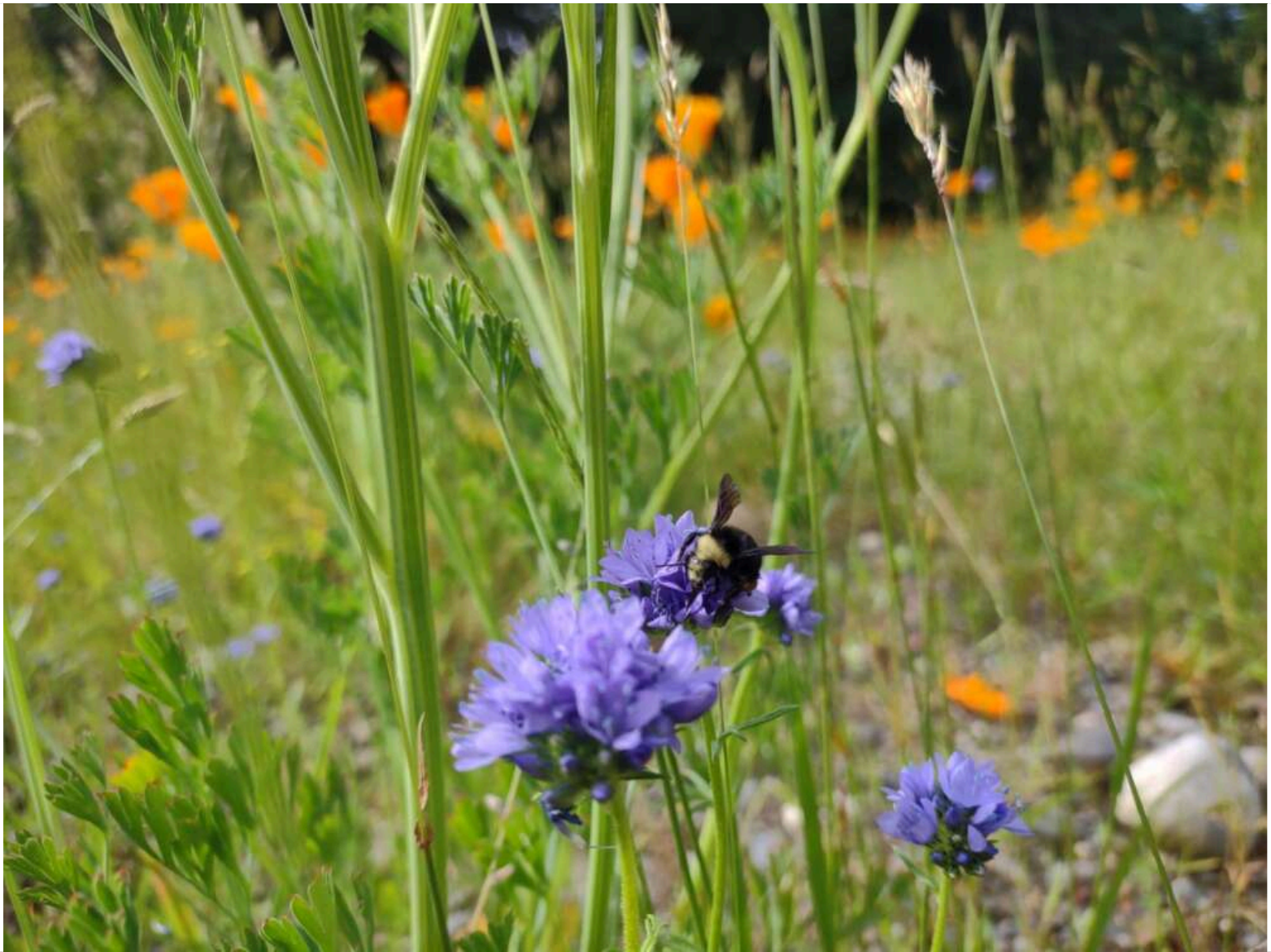
500000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

1815

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- Other



Bumblebee at the first pollinator garden

Education & Outreach

The City of Olympia hosted or coordinated 7 events or activities during the past 2 years. – Talks to the Olympia Host Lions Club and the South Sound Native Plant Society – Construction of a "Pollinator Puzzle" by students for the annual ArtsWalk celebration – Stream Team educational programs about pollinators – Pollinator art for the City of Olympia Stormwater educational natural yard card calendar – Pollinator conservation education tabling at annual Arbor Day celebration – First annual "Bumblebee Jubilee" We don't currently have a way to track other community events but

also participated in the "Bee Keeping Today" podcast.

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

6

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.

- Yes



First Annual Bumblebee Jubilee

Policies & Practices

For City-owned land, pesticide use has been eliminated except for when it is legally required to remove noxious weeds. In the Parks Department, alternative methods for removing invasive plants continue to be researched and implemented.

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
- 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

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.

The Public Works Stormwater Pollution Prevention and the regional Stream Team programs regularly supply educational materials encouraging reduction in pesticide use.

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

No new policy initiatives are under consideration at this time. Prevention messaging about water quality and reduced pesticide use is standard for the City of Olympia.

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?

A lot of research went into the adoption of Pesticide-Free Parks before the City of Olympia became a Bee City USA affiliate. More recently, we attended the Bee City USA IPM class.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://cms7files.revize.com/olympia/Document_center/Parks%20&%20Recreation/IPM%20FINAL%20Document.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/21-024_01_1.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Olympia™

Pesticide Free Park

Volunteers Needed...

to assist with mulching, hand weeding and other pesticide free practices. The success of this one year pilot program is dependant upon volunteers

Experience It!

Parks • Arts • Recreation

To Volunteer Call

360.753.8365

This is a one-year pilot program



Have questions about this project call 360.753.8024

Learn More

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Most of the City of Olympia Bee City USA Committee