

Bee City USA - Red Lodge

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The committee's primary and largest habitat enhancement is the Highway 212 Beautification project, which involves boulevards from the north entrance of town at a roundabout and runs south several blocks. These areas are primarily gravel with a few trees and shrubs planted but not in good condition. The committee hosted an event that planted over 100 pollinator-friendly grasses and flowers as part of phase one and continued to manually care for and weed this area and previously planted areas on a weekly basis. The committee also hosted a tree planting event with Boy Scouts in one of the public parks to replace ash trees that were removed. Trees were also replaced along Highway 212. An Americorps VISTA member is planning to plant herbaceous vegetation between these trees in 2023. The City was overwhelmed with a historic June flooding event that halted many outreach programs and enhancements.

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

2

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

2400

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

22

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

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Volunteers help to convert these gravel ROWs into pollinator habitat.

Education & Outreach

In 2022, pollinator conservation information, activities, and presentations were present at 3 events. These events include: Earth Day Block Party, a summer Garden Tour organized by the local gardening club, planting events at the roundabout on the north end of town, and a presentation to the All Nations Garden Club. Our committee hosted or co-hosted the Earth Day Block Party and the planting events around town.

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

How many people attended those events (in total)?

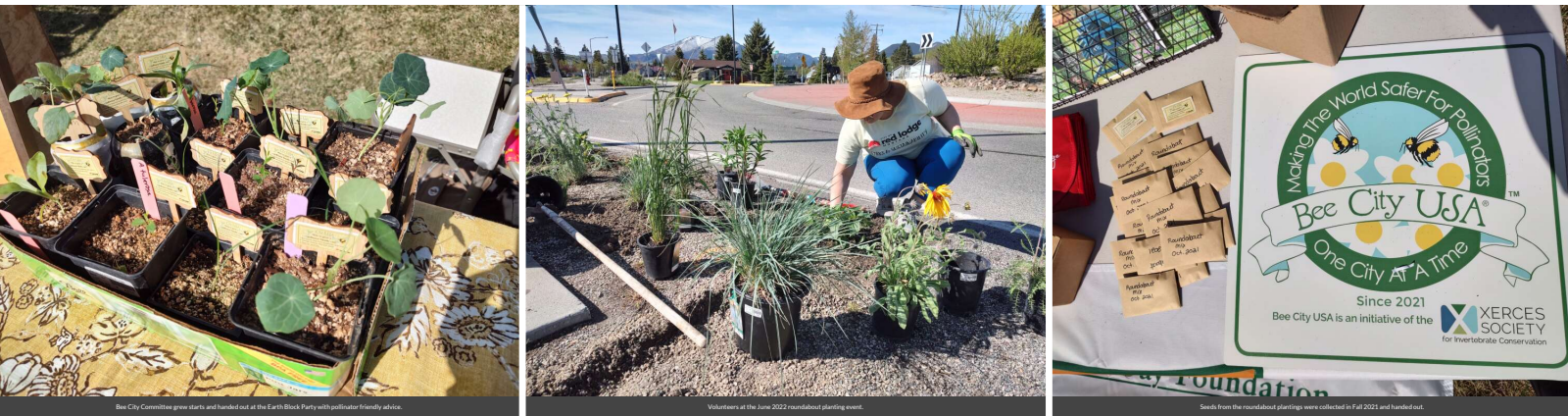
295

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



Policies & Practices

The Highway 212 Beautification Project seeks to reduce noxious weed spraying along the boulevards, which are primarily gravel, through planting of grasses and wildflowers. The Committee has also worked on an IPM policy for City-owned properties and staff to follow. The Parks Board is reducing future need of pesticides through its project to reduce the concentration of ash trees at one of the City parks. This is in response to the Montana Forest Action Plan to prepare for presence of emerald ash borers.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- 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
- 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.

No current efforts through the committee are underway, though discussions through the All Nations Garden Club have been made. However, this is a future goal of the bee committee. The City Planning Director encourages developers to use landscaping techniques that would reduce pesticide use.

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

The City's Parks Board and staff liaison are continuing to improve boulevards through tree plantings and encouraging herbaceous plantings in order to protect pollinators and waterways. In 2022, the Planning Director and Americorp VISTA member began discussing boulevard designs that property owners could use to increase pollinator friendly plants and reduce the number of pesticides to control noxious weeds. One avid gardener is promoting alternative uses to pesticides through adult education courses to protect human health.

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?

The Committee and its City staff liaison have reviewed IPM plans posted on the Bee City website, and have reviewed literature and the video presentation from Bee City.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Red Lodge IPM 2022.pdf](https://www.cityofredlodge.net/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_board/page/10727/red_lodge_ipm_2022.pdf)

https://www.cityofredlodge.net/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_board/page/10727/red_lodge_ipm_2022.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator Plants Northern-Plains.pdf](https://www.cityofredlodge.net/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_board/page/10727/pollinatorplants_northern-plains.pdf)

https://www.cityofredlodge.net/sites/default/files/fileattachments/parks_board/page/10727/pollinatorplants_northern-plains.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [RedLodge-regional-suppliers.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmstn10795.pdf)

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmstn10795.pdf

Learn More

<http://cityofredlodge.net/departments/parks-board/>





Some Bee City committee members and volunteers participating in bare root tree plantings. We're such busy little bees we do not think to capture a photo of us together.

