

# Bee City USA - Santa Barbara

Report on 2022

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

1. Thousand Steps native plants and hydroseeding: Native plants were utilized to address both erosion control and landscaping at the Thousand Steps project. 18 native container plants were installed, and hydroseed was applied to approximately 4,500 square feet of exposed cliffside. The plant/seed palette was selected based on successful natives within and directly adjacent to the project site. 2. Arroyo Burro Open Space – Second phase completed: The second phase of restoration at the Arroyo Burro Open Space was completed in 2022. Project elements included restoration improvements along Arroyo Burro and the Campanil drainage (a tributary to Arroyo Burro), the creation of formal trail routes, and the installation of a pedestrian bridge over the creek that connects park visitors to the Las Positas and Modoc Roads Multiuse Path. The project included the planting of over 2,600 native container plants, including 350 native trees and additional arroyo willow stakes. Funding for Phase II included a grant from the County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund. Volunteers from Laguna Blanca School received a tour and removed invasive plant removal on March 8 and 9 (32 students each day) and community volunteers planted native plants on March 12 (20 volunteers). 3. Oaks planted at Hidden Valley Park and Honda Valley Park: About 50 oak saplings were planted throughout these parks to fill in the planting zones as part of the restoration projects. The trees were grown from acorns gathered at the sites. They were started in one gallon tree pots and were about a year old at the time of planting. 4. Street trees regular plantings: The Forestry Team planted about 215 street trees, including 19 Desert Willow, 31 Jacaranda, and 20 Evergreen Pear trees. 5. Elings Park restoration and invasive weed removal: During 2022, biologists with Rincon Consultants and volunteers with Channel Islands Restoration installed native plants at the Elings Park Veterans' Memorial Walk. They planted 2,160 herbaceous plants and shrubs between December 15, 2021 and February 25, 2022, creating a coastal sage scrub community. They then planted 60 additional plants on November 29, 2022. They installed 104 coast live oak saplings at Elings Park near Godric Grove between January 19, 2022 and January 21, 2022. There was some mortality during the summer, so they planted 40 replacement coast live oak trees on August 9, 2022. They also conducted several weeding events to remove invasive species throughout the Veterans' Memorial Walk planting site and adjacent to the installed coast live oak trees. Weeds were removed via hand tools. These events were on March 13, April 27, May 5, May 26, June 30, and August 4, 2022.

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

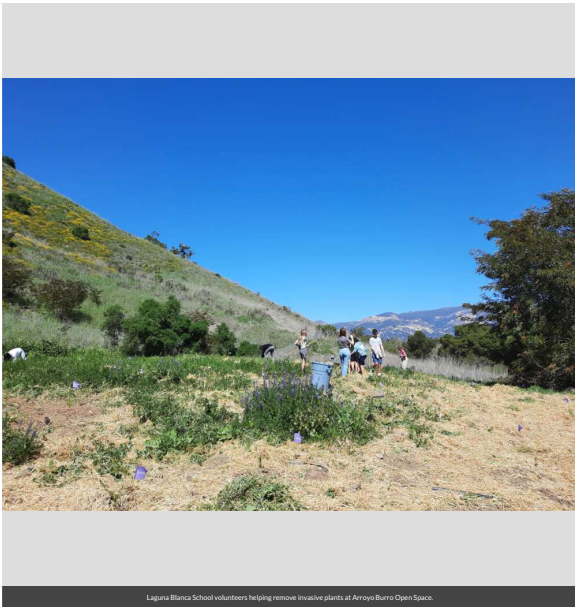
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*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

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

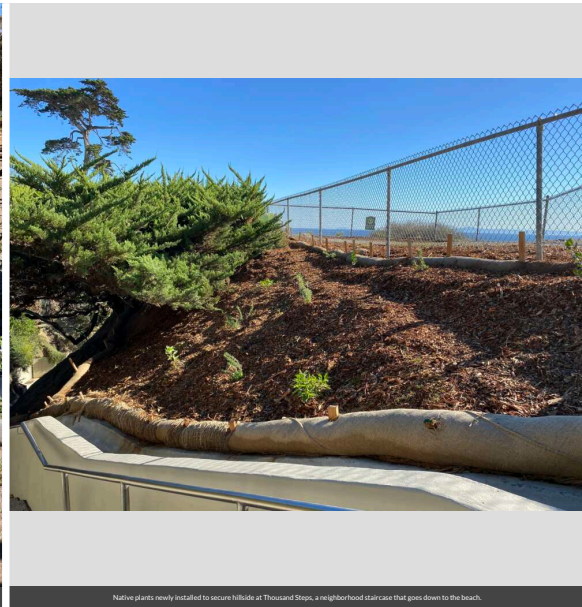
- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Laguna Blanca School volunteers helping remove invasive plants at Arroyo Burro Open Space.



Community volunteers planting native plants at Arroyo Burro Open Space.



Native plants newly installed to secure hillside at Thousand Steps, a neighborhood staircase that goes down to the beach.

## Education & Outreach

- Our City Council issued a proclamation for National Pollinator Week on May 23, 2022. A researcher at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden who studies native pollinators, Sarah Cusser, made a brief statement thanking the Council for this proclamation and stating the highlighting of native pollinators.
- We have not yet installed any Bee City USA logo signs. We

have assigned this project to a new Parks Supervisor who is in the process of locating appropriate placement for these signs on existing signage posts in parks with flowering plants. •Since 2005, the UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County & City have maintained a 4,300 square foot area of the Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden as a demonstration Butterfly Garden. It is a mix of common ornamental and California native plants that support pollinators and are drought tolerant. This garden encourages residents and visitors to plant their own butterfly and/or pollinator gardens. In 2022, the Master Gardeners donated 227.5 hours of work. Also, the Master Gardeners and City Parks Division completed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the group to expand their education and outreach activities at the garden during volunteer hours.

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

50

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

7

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

*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.*

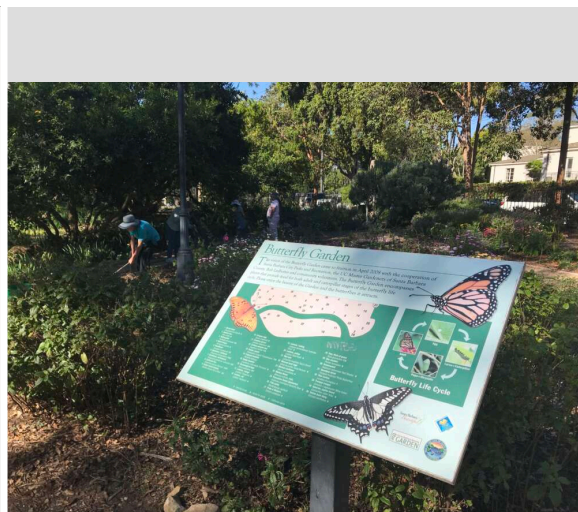
- Yes



Sarah Cusser, Terrestrial Invertebrate Conservation Ecologist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, presenting the National Pollinator Week proclamation.



Sarah Cusser, Terrestrial Invertebrate Conservation Ecologist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Jazmin LeBlanc, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, after presenting the National Pollinator Week proclamation.



Master Gardener Butterfly Garden at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden.

## Policies & Practices

Since 2004, the City of Santa Barbara has had a robust Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy to promote environmentally sensitive pest management while preserving assets and protecting the health and safety of the public and our employees. The IPM Strategy seeks to reduce the use of pesticide products that pose known, likely, or probable human health or environmental risks and promote the use of non-hazardous and/or reduced risk alternatives. The Strategy establishes a clear criteria for pesticide use in structures, landscapes, and other grounds and requires that pesticides be applied in a manner that protects and enhances our region's natural resources and public health. The Strategy is accompanied by a PHAER Zone System and an Approved Materials List that help determine what kind of pest control materials can be used and where. The majority of City Parks are designated 'green' or pesticide free with some 'yellow' parks and 'floating yellow zones' inside of 'green' parks for vegetative fuels management. The IPM Strategy is largely administered through the IPM Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly to review and advise pest control needs throughout City lands and property. Parks staff and Committee members prepare an Annual Report that is presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Since establishing this strategy, City Parks pesticide usage has dropped by 97%.

*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

*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 Green Gardener Program for Santa Barbara County educates local gardeners in resource efficient and pollution prevention landscape maintenance practices. The Green Gardener Program is a regional program designed to offer education, training, and promotion of participating gardeners and landscape maintenance contractors. Since Fall 2000, over 1,500 students have completed the certification program. Our community is lucky to have the award-winning Santa Barbara City College that offers a Skills Competency Award, Certificate of Achievement, and Associate Degree in Environmental Horticulture. This is a vocational program that teaches the basic skills and provides state-of-the-art information required to develop a strong foundation for a variety of career specialties within the landscaping, ornamental horticulture and the regenerative and restoration industry. The program explains the importance of

ecological and economic sustainability, while also promoting making practical decisions with all available options. This program serves 150 students per year and uses experiential learning in a 3 acre teaching garden on campus. This garden includes an insectary section that was revitalized in the fall of 2021, central to a diverse orchard of fruit trees, and housing over 20 different nectar and host plants for insect pollinator species.

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

The Creeks Division of the Parks & Recreation Department was created to protect pollinators, people, and waterways from pesticides and other harmful chemicals. In November 2000, the City of Santa Barbara's voters approved Measure B, an increase in the transient occupancy tax rate from 10% to 12% effective January 2001. All proceeds from the 2% tax increase are restricted to use in the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program. Creek restoration is an important component of the Creeks Division's programs, which helps to improve creek health, native habitat for wildlife, and water quality. Goals for restoration projects include removal of invasive plants, restoring native riparian vegetation and habitat, and improving water quality through natural filtration. Restoring native vegetation also provides benefits to native pollinators. When possible, the community is invited to participate in restoration efforts at both large and small scale restoration projects. Volunteers have participated in native planting days, invasive plant removal, and clean-ups at various sites throughout the City over the last several years.

*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?*

Our CADPR Qualified Applicators, Parks Supervisor Steve Biddle and Parks Manager Simón Herrera, are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education every 2 years. Last year, Simón attended BioNatural Healing College Seminar BioNatural Pest Management to keep up with the latest developments in green pest control methods.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM Strategy Final Version.pdf](#)

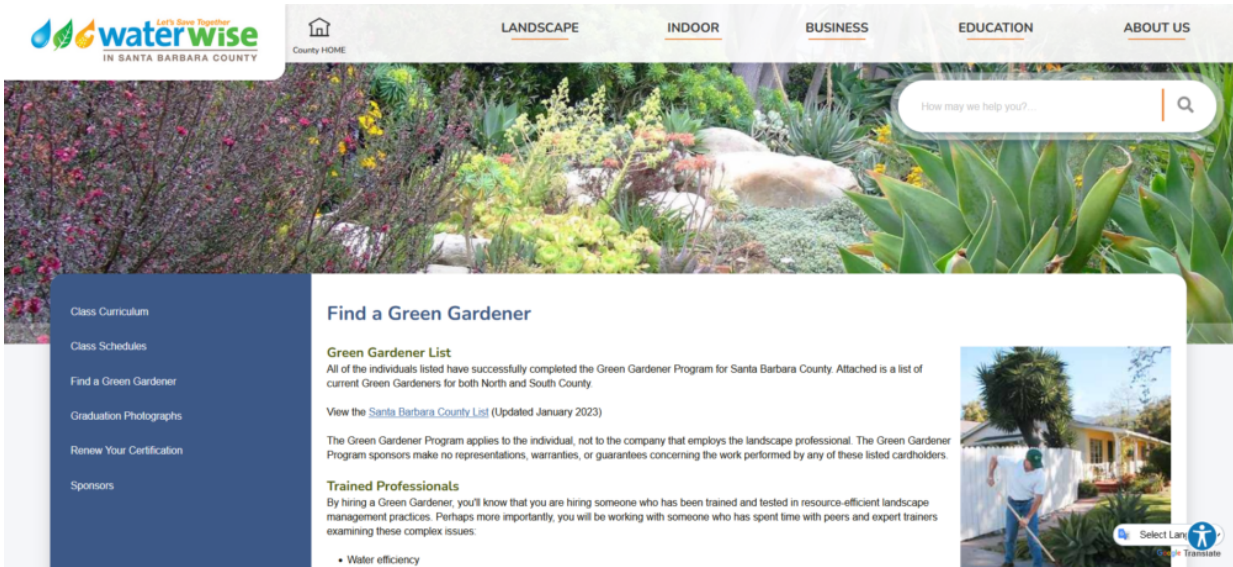
<https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/parksrec/parks/stewardship/ipm/default.asp>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.sbbg.org/sites/default/files/Fall%202019%20AVAILABILITY%20LIST.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.sbbg.org/explore-garden/nursery>



Green Gardener website

## Learn More

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CRLam@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](https://sbparksandrec.santabarbaraca.gov/CRLam@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

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