

Bee City USA - Talent

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

June 30th we celebrated the unveiling of the World's Smallest Park. It comprises of an area of 374 square inches, in the form of a hexagon and contains 5 plants: Mock Orange (the only hybrid): Monardella, Lewisia, Pussytoes and Yellow-Eyed Grass (all natives). It emphasises that even a tiny space can provide a pollinator habitat. Six Bee City members and one friend created, under the tutelage of Karen Rycheck – the queen of mosaics, and in conjunction of the Talent Maker City, 7 hexagonal mosaic stepping stones. These surround the park/garden and are show stoppers since we used pollinator motives. A tiny wrought iron fence surrounds the immediate garden. We further enhance the quality of this park by administering the complete set of biodynamic applications and BD compost. At the unveiling we gave a talk on the importance of nurturing native pollinators and handed out seed packages of native flowering plants. The local press (TV stations and print media) covered the event. We were even featured during NBC's World News. The event was attended by approx. 50 – 60 people. This year we certified another 6 private pollinator gardens which brings our total to 79. One particularly wonderful garden consisted of, apart from vegetables and a few fruit trees, all native plants.

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

9

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

15

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
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- 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
- Rain garden/bioswale



The tiniest park



Members of our Bee City affiliate and our City Manager.

Education & Outreach

At the beginning of May, our community came together for a major planting along our two major waterways. Native trees, shrubs and seed bombs with native flowering plants were planted/scattered. Approx. 30 people partook in this event and our city administration provided lunch for the worker bees. On a separate occasion, several people made milkweed seed bombs and scattered these out on public land. Instead of using soil, we encased the seeds with moistened flour. This works extremely well. We also held a major pruning session for our City Hall Pollinator Garden, 13 people attended, including an 8 year old boy who was hard at work pruning various shrubs.

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

3

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

3

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



The "pruning crew", comprising of members of our Bee City affiliate and the Talent Garden Club.

Policies & Practices

Our city created an IPM in 2018, since June 18 of that year no biocides or fertilizers of a chemical nature are being used on city lands. Our city acquired a weed steamer which is used on the crushed granite paths in the parks. Occasionally, a combination of cinnamon, cloves and orange is sprayed on the grassy areas in our parks to subdue invasive weeds.

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
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Dropped pesticide use altogether on city or campus grounds
- 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 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 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.

We reach out to the public and businesses to educate them on the harmful effects of biocides and give them a list of

organic, alternative measures. More and more community members become "enlightened".

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Currently, 4 out of 6 Parks and Rec Commissioners are on our Bee City committee, the other two are very supportive of our endeavors as is Public Works and the City Administration.

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:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator-Friendly Native Shrubs, Flowers of Southern Oregon - Google Docs \(1\).pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More

gardenintalent@gmail.com

[https://facebook.com/Talent Pollinator Garden Challenge](https://facebook.com/TalentPollinatorGardenChallenge)