

Bee City USA - Tualatin

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Tualatin has an active volunteer planting program called Put Down Roots in Tualatin (PDRT) that engages hundreds of people annually in “hands on” environmental work. PDRT hosts four to five large restoration events each year that typically includes up to 100 people planting 1,000 native plants in restoring /improving a park sites that were once over run with invasive plant species, primarily Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy. Over the past five years, staff have recognized the importance of pollinator habitat creation and protection. During this time areas within developed parks have been identified as lower grade turf have been transformed to pollinator gardens. These gardens contain all native shrubs and wildflowers planted in a “hedgerow” fashion to encourage bee habitat. These areas are no longer mowed, reducing staff time, carbon emissions, and showcasing native landscape design creating pollinator habitat to our park visitors. 29,340 square feet of newly created habitat areas as follows: At Jurgens Park 3,900 sq. ft. was created including native trees, shrubs, and native wildflowers in a rough mow area at the back of the park. This will reduce the amount of area that was once mowed regularly, reducing maintenance needs, and increasing pollinator habitat and increasing awareness with park users. At Tualatin Community Park 10,440 sq. ft. of native trees and shrubs along Hedges Creek was created. This planting served many goals and initiatives including eliminating a rough mow turf area, lessening the resource needs and improving streamside native vegetation diversity and function. This area qualifies for mitigation enhancement credits through Clean Water Services (CWS), the regions storm water oversight agency. At Saum Creek Greenway we enhanced and reforested 15,000 sq. ft. in a riparian forested area that is eligible for mitigation enhancement credits with CWS. Invasive Blackberry plants were removed and native trees and shrubs were planted.

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

10

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

29340

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

687

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Other



Volunteer Planting Event



Volunteer Planting

Education & Outreach

The City of Tualatin hosted ten volunteer planting events where community members mulched native trees, shrubs, pollinator friendly flowers, vegetables and herbs. In addition, the City hosted educational events to celebrate pollinator week and illustrate the importance of pollinators. The City of Tualatin was also featured on local news in a segment called North West Grown. In the segment, Tualatin City Councilor Bridget Brooks was interviewed about the importance of being a Bee City and how the status helps the pollinators. The largest volunteer event was at Jurgens Park where Mayor Bubenik planted an annual historical tree for Arbor Day. During the event a large section of grass was removed and replanted with native flowers, plants and trees. This is the first pollinator demonstration garden at Jurgens Park and also serves as a hedgerow bordering the Tualatin River. Through the planting events hosted by the City, 2,500 native plants were installed to improve forest diversity, stream health and pollinator habitat. The events ranged in scale from 100 volunteers planting 750 plants to 15 volunteers and installing 30 plants. All of these events are designed to promote the importance of native trees and plants in our community and improve pollinator habitat. The educational events put on by the City provided the community the opportunity to learn about how they can help support pollinators by creating a habitat where they live or work. The city also participated in the Annual Bio Blitz hosted by the National Recreation and Park Association as another way for community members to get involved and learn about supporting pollinators.

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

13

How many people attended those events (in total)?

725

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

2

*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

JUANITA POHL CENTER | POLLINATOR WEEK



THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES



Pollinators play an amazing role in nature. Learn about the fascinating life cycle of mason bees and ways to attract other native pollinators. Led by Elaine Murphy, birder for over 35 years and volunteer at the Backyard Bird Shop. Sponsored in-part by the Tualatin Sustainability Network



Friday, June 24 | 2-3pm | FREE



Pre-registration required | TualatinOregon.gov | 503.691.3061

Education Event Poster



Arbor Day tree planting with Mayor Frank Bubenik

Policies & Practices

All staff are required to possess and maintain a Public Pesticide Applicators License issued by the State of Oregon. By law, each applicator is required to obtain Continuing Education Units (CEU's) over the course of the license term to renew. All of these CEU's are informational classes on the safe and effective use of pesticides. In recent years, Oregon has included information in these classes about protecting pollinators. The most invasive plant species throughout our natural areas within our park system is Himalayan Blackberry. We have adjusted our spraying practices to eliminate exposure to bees, pollinators, birds, other wildlife and humans by only spraying in mid to late fall. This timing is specifically designed to only spray long after the bloom time (May-June) and not in the the fruit bearing months of late summer (July-August) to protect pollinating birds and insects. Our targeted spray timing is typically in late October and early November when plants are translocating sugars in to the root zone for winter and increasing the effectiveness of the herbicide.

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

- 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)

- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds

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.

Efforts are underway to continue to educate our community and businesses in the area of healthy management practices. Recently, a non-profit, Tualatin Sustainability Network was been established to focus exclusively on the work of healthy ecosystems in our community.

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

We have avoided use of pesticides in designated pollinator habitat and other sensitive sites (except when targeted herbicide use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed management); Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods; Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics; Reduced the number of sites where pesticides are used; Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides; Dropped pesticide use altogether.

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?

All Parks Maintenance staff attend reoccurring training by Oregon State University Extension Services as well as the Xerces Society. All with the intent to use less pesticides, avoid conflicts with pollinating insects, and be thoughtful about thresholds when determining to use of pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Tualatin 2020 IPM statement.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [plant-request-form.pdf](#)

<https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/bee-city-usa%C2%AE-city-tualatin>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Beaverlake Nursery Availability Spring 2021 \(\(1\).xlsx](#)

<https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/bee-city-usa%C2%AE-city-tualatin>



[Learn More](#)



Volunteer Clean up

