

Bee City USA - Westminster

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The pollinator garden at Standley Lake is constantly enriched with new plants and weeding, next to it, the Westminster Bee Club continues to take care of the apiary located at the park, which provides honeybees a place to live and produce honey. Walnut Creek Golf Preserve is celebrating two decades of environmental stewardship providing a high-quality playing experience for golfers while providing high-quality habitat for birds, pollinators, and much more. The city's horticulture team removed turf at two locations; both areas were then heavily planted with pollinator attracting, drought tolerant perennials, many of which are native to the region. They also converted an abused privet hedge to a hedge of native fern bush and a City gateway from old, unhealthy junipers and water-loving annuals to drought tolerant perennials. Finally, they created 2 large rock gardens at Public Safety Center, planted with many varieties of drought tolerant perennials and shrubs, many natives. The City has five community gardens up and running and a Neighborhood Landscape Enhancement Grant (NEG) for groups of residents or business owners. The NEG Program aims to change and diversify the landscape of shared areas to promote the protection of natural resources and improve community gathering. Most of the plans for this project come directly from the city's Briggs Greenhouse Center. Here more than 45,000 plants are produced each year including plants and flowers, as well as herb and vegetable seeds for the City's annual and perennial gardens, flower beds/pots and community gardens. Open space is constantly doing restoration projects, most of them are on sites that are being restored to short grass prairie ecosystems. They have managed several invasive plants and cut hundreds of Russian olive trees and have left the dead/dying wood for insects in various open spaces. In the areas this is done with mechanical control, they leave all the native plants, especially milkweed for the monarchs. The Butterfly Pavilion has been running the Urban Prairies Project (UPP) since 2016. In Collaboration with City and County of Broomfield, City of Westminster, Broomfield Open Space Foundation this project improves the ecological health of urban and suburban open spaces along the front range and beyond, while providing opportunities to engage community volunteers in habitat conservation for pollinators and other wildlife.

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

15

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

800000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

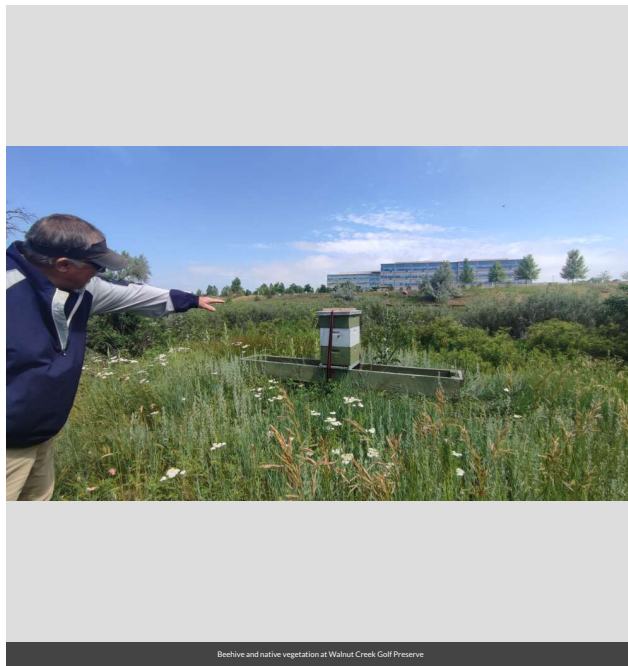
60

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
- 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 shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



1. Milkweed seed collection, Butterfly Pavilion and Latino Outdoors



2. Beehive and native vegetation at Walnut Creek Golf Preserve



3. Tamaround circle after removing turf and plant with pollinator attracting, drought tolerant perennials - City Park Recreation Center

Education & Outreach

During the Pollinator Week, in June, events were host at Standley Lake regional park every day for different audiences. The week was kick off with the Pollinator Table , where all the visitor could stop by and check out a table full of pollinator

props and information. The other programs during the week where: Pollinator crafts for all ages, a night hike to discover and learn about nocturnal pollinators, a self-guided walk (with a hike guide) to explore the pollinators of the park, and a cool visit to the pollinator garden with the park naturalist learning the importance and overall lives of bees. An online facebook event was also announced during the whole week inviting people to share pictures of the pollinators on their neighborhoods. Other programs hosted during the year included: Insect Mania and Nature exploration with kids on Wildlife Wednesday and the Junior Ranger Academy during the summer, more night walks exploring the adaptation of Yucca plants and Yucca months, Monarch tagging & release and Westminster Bee Club meeting & training Walnut Creek Golf Preserve is now working with the Standley Lake Nature Center to offer Public Nature Walks on their Golf course. Hopefully, with this program everybody can see how environmentally sustainable golf course management is an integral part of their operating principles and how the golf course is a model for meeting the recreation needs for the citizens while making sure it remains welcoming and healthy for all. The Butterfly Pavilion celebrated a Pollinator Festival where they had tours around the gardens and special activities. A pollinator plant sale was also organized where people could buy packs for their gardens. Each pack included 6 pollinator-friendly plants native to Colorado, Pollinator Garden Guide and a bottle of honey made by Butterfly Pavilion bees.

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

20

How many people attended those events (in total)?

250

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.

- No



Pollinator crafts for the whole family in the celebration of the Pollinator Week at Stanley Lake



Habitat Garden tour during the Pollinator Festival - Butterfly Pavilion



Monarch Tag and release at Stanley Lake Regional Park

Policies & Practices

In terms of pest management, open space has an entire program. They use mechanical control (mowing/hand pulling of weeds), biological control (release of insects and fungi that target certain weed species), cultural control (restoration projects throughout the year that promote native plant diversity and try to outcompete the weeds), and finally chemical control (using herbicide to control weeds). At the Standley Lake Regional Park & Wildlife Refuge the use of any type of pesticide is prohibited. Other methods are used to ensure the safety of the wildlife and high quality of the lake's water. Goats are commonly used to get rid of noxious weeds and other unwanted plants. The release of insects is used as well. Weeding with immediate seeding and planting has become a useful method to prevent the re-growth of invasive plants. This method is often used in Standley Lake's pollinator garden.

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 use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds 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.

One of the Five aspects included in the Weed management plan is education. This means provide information and increase awareness of the detrimental effect of nonnative invasive species and encourage people to sign up for the free app 'Colorado Noxious Weeds' <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-specie>.

Westminster's Walnut Creek Golf Preserve has maintained certification as an Audubon Signature Sanctuary by Audubon International. The honor recognizes the golf course's efforts to protect and conserve the natural landscape, in addition to prioritizing water conservation, wildlife habitat management, outreach, and education. Some of the projects they are doing involved including conserving energy and reducing water use, utilizing integrated pest management techniques, naturalizing areas, and managing resources in an environmentally responsible manner

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

The adopted budget for 2022 included: Disseminated biological pest management controls at Standley Lake Regional Park, Walnut Creek Golf Preserve, and throughout the City's open space and parks system

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: [NoxWeedMgmtPlan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [COWPlantList\(April2022\) \(1\) \(1\).xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://plantselect.org/>

Learn More



Goats grazing at Standley Lake Regional Park