

# Bee City USA - Montana State University

## Report on 2022

### Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Honey Bee Research Site and Pollinator Garden at Montana State University serves as a hub for pollinator friendly native plant habitat, pollinator research, community integration, and discovery. This site is critical to Flenniken lab research and outreach activities. Every summer, we host four volunteer days and a field day at MSU's Honey Bee Research Site and Pollinator Garden, which is a 0.5-acre site that has 10 honey bee colonies, a screened in pavilion to limit interactions between people and bees while still giving them a chance to look at frames of bees without having to wear a full bee suit, and a demonstration pollinator garden. MSU's Pollinator Garden has been host to multiple groups. On campus a new installation of primarily native grasses and wildflowers accented with native flowering shrubs, was added to provide additional bee habitat and forage. In addition, MSU added a food production garden on campus, that will provide habitat and forage for bees.

*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
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting

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

*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?*

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### Education & Outreach

MSU Hosted 1. Pollinator Symposium, Flenniken Lab and Other MSU Graduate Students (i.e., Naomi Kaku) gave short presentations to the public on their research efforts aimed at understanding the role of pathogens on honey bee health at both the colony and individual bee levels, Bozeman, MT (April 21, 2022); ~ 20 community 2. Pollinator Garden Volunteer

Days – total of 3, summer of 2023 , 15 people 3. Honey Bee Research at MSU highlighted at Freshman Research Symposium, Oct. 2022 ~ 150 attendees Hosted by others: 1. Montana State Beekeepers Mtg, Michelle Flenniken – speaker ~ 60 attendees 2. Oklahoma Beekeepers Big Bee Buzz Meeting, Invited Speaker, three talks on honey bee host – virus interactions, Tulsa, OK (March 25-26, 2022). ~ 200 attendees 3. Virginia and SW Ohio State Beekeepers Association, Invited Speaker, "The impact of viruses on honey bees at the colony, individual, and cellular levels", via Zoom (October 26, 2022). ~ 35 attendees 4. Great Conversations, Invited Speaker/Table Leader, "Honey Bee Biology and Bee Research", Helena Education Foundation (HEF), Helena, MT (November 16, 2022). ~ 12 people per table; ~ 120 attendees

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

8

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

400

*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.*

*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?*

50000

*How many volunteers helped with those projects?*

12

*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)

*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.*

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Policies & Practices

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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Learn More

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