

Bee City USA - Ashland

Report on 2023

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

Pollinator demonstration gardens at North Mountain Park continue to be maintained by weekly actions of volunteers. Weed abatement projects throughout the city are coordinated by Parks staff and uses numerous volunteer crews. This reduces the use of pesticides. Ashland Pond project continues and is managed by The Freshwater Trust under contract to City of Ashland. TFT uses local subcontractors to plant locally grown native plants along the riparian areas at the confluence of Ashland Creek with Bear Creek. Plantings are monitored and inspected to ensure survival of the plants. This project has integrated goals of increasing shade to reduce water temperatures, removal of invasives, restoration of native plants and a fire recovery project.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

-1

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

121

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

91

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

14500

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- 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
- Roadside/rights of way planting

NMP Look for this icon for programs in north mountain parks



Meet North Mountain Park's Weed Warriors

"When you are feeling concerned about the state of our planet, sometimes it helps to just get out and do something."

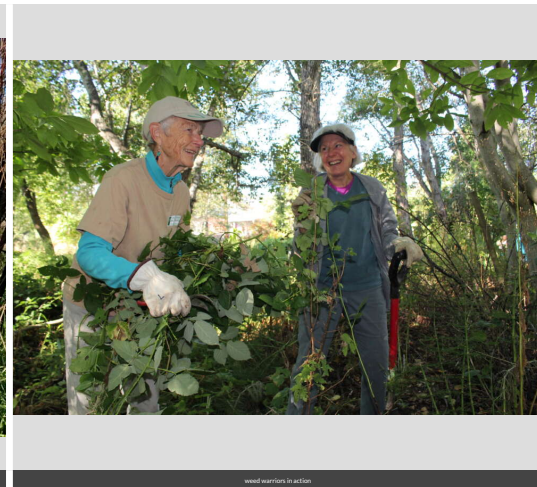
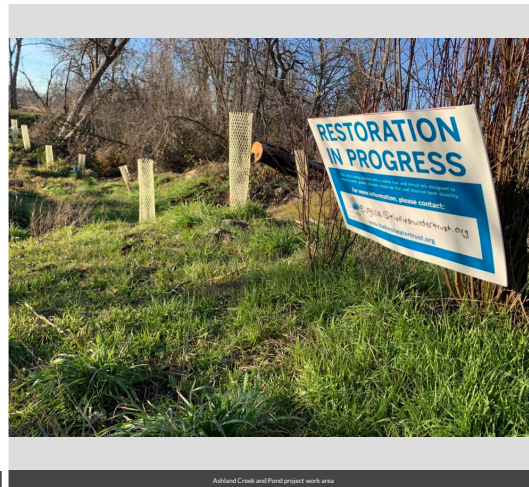
These folks do A LOT for North Mountain Park. From the 3rd week in March to mid-November, this group of dedicated volunteers show up every Thursday morning to work in North Mountain Park's natural habitat area. They do everything from pulling star thistle, to cutting blackberry, to planting native shrubs. Their work helps to improve the park's wildlife habitat, supports good watershed function, and offers visitors a nice experience while walking, sitting, and wildlife-watching in North Mountain Park.

"It's really a type of therapy" say some of the volunteers, who regularly show up to talk with friends and work together, caring for a park they enjoy visiting. Removing blackberries, a team favorite, has the added benefit of removing potential fire fuels and freeing native trees and shrubs for healthy growth. You may see their piles of cut blackberries near trails and roadsides, awaiting removal by hardworking APRC staff. Our parks could never look so nice without our dedicated volunteers and our community would not be the same without our beautiful parks!

For more information, call the Nature Center at 541.488.6606 or visit **NORTHMOUNTAINPARK.ORG**

AshlandParksandRec.org | Instagram or Facebook @AshlandParksandRec | Parksinfo@ashland.or.us

North Mountain Park weed warriors



Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

The major focus this year was the pollinator garden tour, our first since 2019. Our community of gardeners was very excited to present this event again. Ten gardens were included, three of which made available information about fire reluctant landscaping, and one owner has beehives. Fifty people toured the gardens. Handouts included a Bees of Oregon ID card and a list of online resources for fire reluctant landscaping practices. Representatives of the city's volunteer wildfire risk assessment program were available to talk with participants at those three gardens. In past years, water conservation was presented, since the city offers numerous water conservation programs including credit for lawn removal and for efficient irrigation practices. Earlier in the spring, the committee chaired at the Earth Day celebration (April 21) and at three monthly (March 16, April 20 and May 18) conservation tabling events at Ashland Food Co-op. Long-time committee member Kristina Lefever works at another organization, Pollinator Project of Rogue Valley, that broadly extends our reach through 3 member cities, Ashland, Talent and Phoenix.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

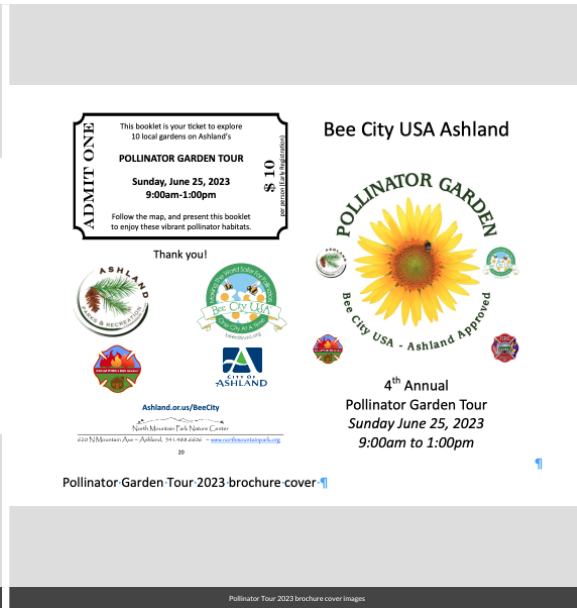
5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

86

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

3





Dual sided Bee City USA sign at SOU campus on Siskiyou Blvd

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

The City continues to implement its IPM plan and is gradually reducing the areas where pesticides are applied. Weed control and invasive removal projects use volunteers to reduce herbicide use. Two committee members (Kristina and Kate) conferred with Susan Selvaggio of Xerces on April 18 to discuss strategies to engage large buyers of nursery plants (road districts, public works depts.) Xerces has now published guidance for BeeCity USA members on the topic of purchasing neonic safe nursery plants.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides 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.

Oregon State University Extension in Southern Oregon has two programs that increasingly advocate for use of sustainable practices. Local Master Gardener Lynn Kunstman recorded this webinar on July 11. On June 13, the series spoke to native Oregon bees needs.

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023#NativePlants>

https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_4zusmevc The second program of interest at OSU Extension Southern Oregon is the Land Steward Program: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/program/all/land-steward/events> Klamath Siskiyou Native Seeds has planted a native plant garden from seed at Troon Vineyards, a local biodynamic vineyard in the Applegate Valley. Susie Savoie gives tours of these plots and posted about it here. KSNS harvests native plant seeds, sells them, and grows them out for resale on numerous local restoration projects on public and private land, including the Ashland Pond Project.

<https://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com/2023/01/05/creating-the-troon-vineyard-native-plant-pollinator-botanical-garden-presentation/>

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [AshlandParks_IPM_PolicyOriginalAmendments.pdf](#)

https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/APRC/APRC%20Policies/IntegratedPestManagement_Signed7-22-2019.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.ashlandsaveswater.org/assets/NativePlants_10.2010.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

https://www.ashland.or.us/Files/NATIVE_PLANT_RESOURCES_IN_SOUTHWEST_OREGON.pdf

<http://ashland.or.us/beecity>

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<https://www.facebook.com/AshlandParksandRec>

