

Bee City USA - Carson City

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.

In 2023, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space held a variety of volunteer events aimed at habitat creation, as well as utilizing IPM in our Park properties to reduce or eliminate herbicide use. Specifically, the department worked with the local Mark Twain Gardening Club to plant flowers in an existing flower bed near the historic Foreman-Robert's House, which is a Carson City Parks property. The plant selection included pollinator friendly plants. Additionally, noxious and invasive weed clean-ups with volunteers events were held throughout Parks and Open Spaces in Carson City, totaling five different events. These events are critical because they help our department utilize IPM and avoid using pesticides in public areas to treat the weed populations. Locations included the historic Lone Mountain Cemetery, Horsecreek Ranch Conservation Easement, and several local trailheads.

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

5

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

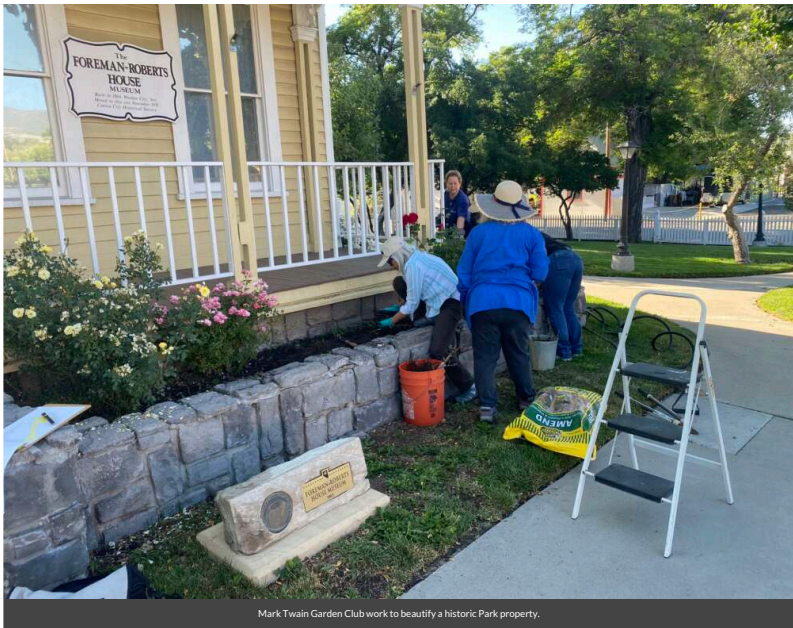
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

50

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Mark Twain Garden Club work to beautify a historic Park property.



Mark Twain Garden Club work to beautify a historic Park property with pollinator plants.

Education & Outreach

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

2023 was a busy year, Carson City continued implementing a variety of outreach projects that have been in progress since becoming a Bee City. For example, in the month of June, we created a Pollinator Month display at the Carson City Library, facilitated by Bee City #76 members. An estimated 6,000 people visited the library and saw the display in the month of June. Additionally, our committee hosted a tour of the Bee Hotel and Foothill Garden with Tahoe Expedition Academy from Truckee, CA. This group of eager students and teacher are interested in making their community a Bee City USA, so we have been sharing our experiences and providing insight into the process and benefits for their community. Additionally, our Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada group continued to share information about Bee City USA at their local chapter meetings and local and regional beekeeping events.

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

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

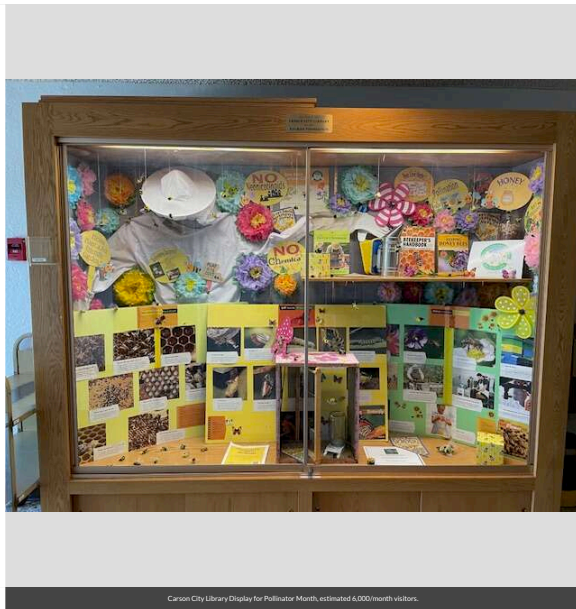
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How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

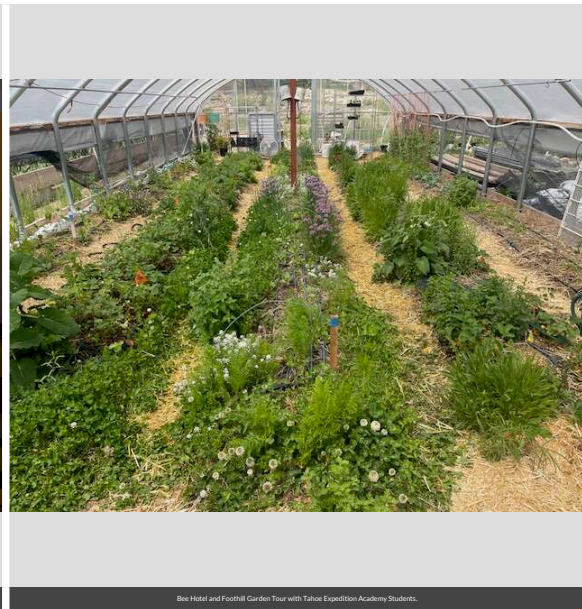
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Bee Hotel and Foothill Garden Tour with Tahoe Expedition Academy Students.



Carson City Library Display for Pollinator Month, estimated 6,000/month visitors.



Bee Hotel and Foothill Garden Tour with Tahoe Expedition Academy Students.

Policies & Practices

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

Carson City has prepared an Integrated Pest Management Plan that was written as a collaboration between several Department's throughout Carson City – including Parks, Public Works and Health with the Vector Control Program. The plan emphasizes using a variety of control methods such as mechanical removal, biocontrol and others as a way to reduce herbicide application throughout the City. Some examples include continuing to implement an herbicide free program for maintaining the vegetation around the Foothill Garden and Bee Hotel site, given that this site hosts organic food production, in addition to a Bee Hotel habitat. Other methods such as solarization are used to treat noxious weeds in this location as an alternative to chemical herbicides. Additionally, both the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, as well as Carson City Public Works Department continued to utilize integrated pest management techniques wherever possible. This includes removing weedy vegetation manually along trails or in sensitive habitats such as wetlands. Additionally, Carson City implemented the 17th year of fuel reduction utilizing sheep grazing on the west side of Carson City. Utilizing sheep, Carson City can reduce fine fuel across 2,000 acres on the landscape with non-chemical means. Additionally, staff work to clear detention basins using mechanical removal rather than herbicide. In addition to some of the alternatives to herbicides outlined above, Carson City staff have also worked to implement a staff training program for seasonal maintenance staff related to integrated pest management, proper plant ID and restoration. Proper training for staff has empowered them to make greater considerations related to pollinator populations when determining treatment methods.

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

No specific policy initiatives have been created in Carson City specific to protecting pollinators, people or waterways

from pesticides, however increased education and outreach to the public on how best to protect themselves and our natural resources is a goal of the Carson City Bee City #76 Executive Committee in 2024. Additionally, Carson City has continued its requirement of developers in Carson City to select 50% of their plant palette for projects from our approved Pollinator Friendly Plant List. This has led to habitat creation throughout Carson City, as well as creating a more interconnected network of habitat for our pollinators to rely upon in urban areas. In 2024, this requirement will be incorporated into Carson City municipal code related to development.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

No specific trainings were attended specific to ecologically based Integrated Pest Management planning. However staff continue to attend pesticide safety workshops to ensure staff who do apply pesticides do it in a safe and responsible manner. Additionally we continue to educate our staff on proper plant ID and alternative treatment options (such as mechanical removal) within our Open Space properties.

Please check actions you have 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)
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides 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.

At this time, the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee has not made any efforts towards reducing pesticide use in the residential and business arena, but hope to begin efforts towards this goal in 2024 through targeted training opportunities to local landscapers in the area.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

I think the requirement of our developers in the City to participate in pollinator friendly habitat creation could be an excellent lesson to share with other Bee Cities and Campuses.



IPM in action, utilizing mechanical removal of weeds in a sensitive meadow habitat to avoid use of herbicides.

Learn More

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

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator Friendly Plant List.xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<http://carson.org/beecityusa>