

# Bee City USA - Council Bluffs

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 the community 8 projects were completed that we are aware of. Six of those projects were conducted on City property to either establish small native plant plots or to restore and reclaim areas that were otherwise not being rehabbed with native plants in mind. The two projects that were not City conducted were done by the Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau and a local native plants group for a school.

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

8

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

20

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

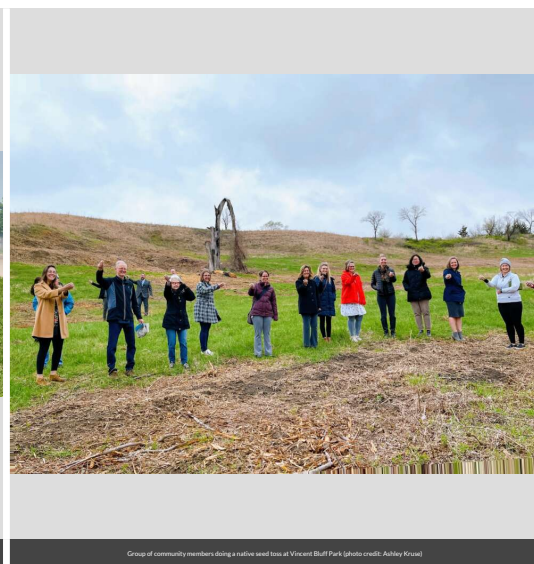
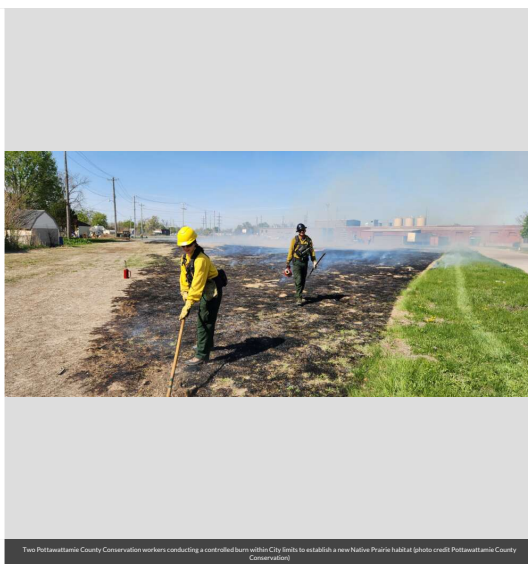
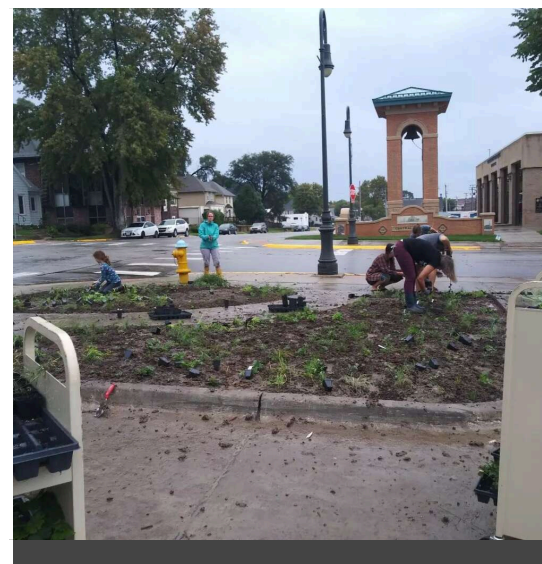
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*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

40850

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

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- School garden



Two Pottawattamie County Conservation workers conducting a controlled burn within City limits to establish a new Native Prairie habitat (photo credit: Pottawattamie County Conservation)

Group of community members doing a native seed toss at Vincent Bluff Park (photo credit: Ashley Kruss)

## Education & Outreach

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

We hosted a variety of events including educational talks at service group meetings, information and hands on fairs including multiple partner organizations, and plant giveaways. The majority of events were hosted by the Bee City Committee or the City of Council Bluffs including two plant giveaways, 4 garden talks or service group presentations, 1 large resource fair, dozens of storytimes in the schools, and a multiple session class teaching adults how to garden with native plants. Non-committee programs includes garden plantings, plant giveaways, seed ball making, native plant sales, and seed collecting instruction. A conference was also held by the Master Gardens on native planting.

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

17

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

2500

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

4



Bee City Informational Booth with craft activity at City SummerFest event (photo credit Council Bluffs Public Library)



Bee City Parade Entry in Council Bluffs Celebrate CB parade (photo credit Council Bluffs Public Library)



## Policies & Practices

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

**We have written an Integrated Pest Management Plan for use by our Horticulture and Grounds and Park Maintenance crews. This plan outlined ways to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides. In addition to our IPM Plan we are using goats to clear densely vegetated areas of invasive species. In spring of 2023 goats cleared approximately 1.5 acres of vegetation at Big Lake Park. This followed about 4 acres of vegetation clearing by goats at Big Lake Park in 2022.**

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

**No policy initiatives are underway to date.**

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

**No specific training has occurred to date.**

*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)
- 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.*

**No effort has been made to date.**



Goats being used to address noxious weeds and overgrowth at Big Lake park (photo credit: Ashley Kruse)



Learn More

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

Recommended Native Plant List: [Plant List UPDATED 2023.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [where\\_to\\_get\\_native\\_plants\\_amp\\_seeds\\_19846.pdf](#)

<https://www.councilbluffs-ia.gov/2511/Bee-City>  
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