

# Bee City USA - Eugene

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.*

**1. Projects hosted by Parks and Open Space Eugene:** All the projects done with Parks volunteers on our natural areas, including waterways are for habitat enhancement. Activities such as invasive species removal, plantings and trash cleanup are most common. At Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden, intern Sha Cabal designed and planted a pollinator garden plot about 20'x6' in area, with the guidance of staff. Tugman Park volunteers have begun projects to create habitat on the north end of the park on 2,576 square feet around the path and forest. They also seeded a test prairie restoration plot of 200 square feet on Fawn Lily Rise, an area in the southwest of the park. **2. Projects hosted by Lane County Audubon Society:** Two Grade School Pollinator gardens. **3. Pollinator Plot Enhancement, Hosted by Beyond Toxics:** Activities involve maintaining 1 small pollinator patch in a community food-growing space in west Eugene. Tasks include removing invasive plant species, adding natural leaf mulch for soil support, and organizing student work parties to educate about gardening techniques and the importance of community food-growing spaces.

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

6

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

250

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

5

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

8712000

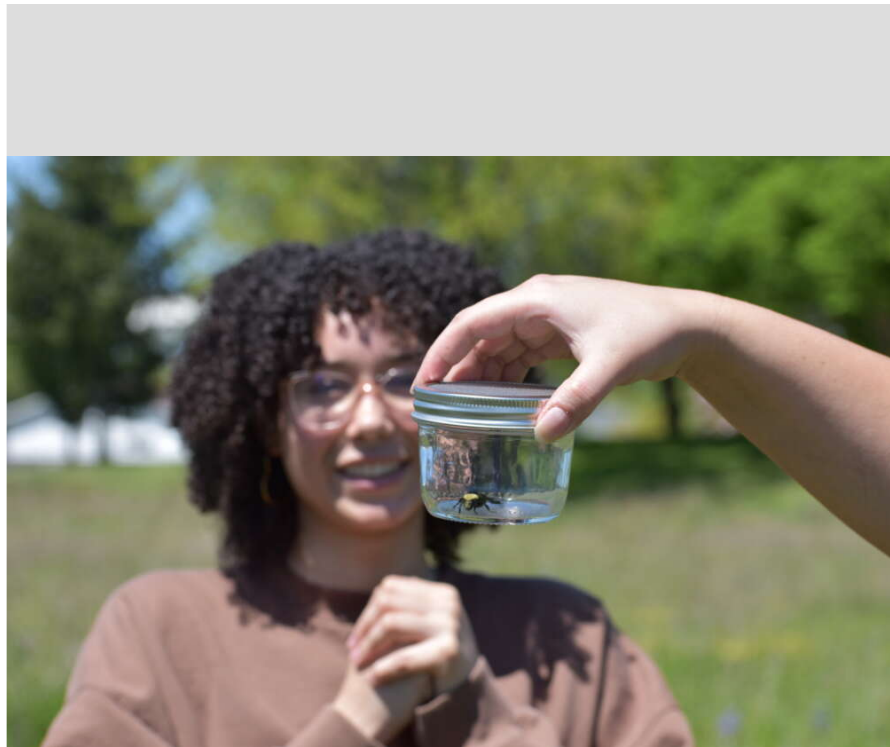
*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species

- Meadow
- 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
- School garden



University of Oregon students volunteer at a pollinator friendly garden at a local grade school. Photo Credit: Lane County Audubon Society



Catching a bumblebee at the Westmoreland Park Community Bee Survey. Photo Credit: Bee City Eugene

## Education & Outreach

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

Our Bee City committee consists of representatives from non-profit organizations and local Parks and Open Space agency. We host 2-3 annual Bee Surveys together, and the rest of our pollinator conservation events are hosted by representative organizations and/or Parks staff. 1. Community Bee Surveys, hosted by Bee City Eugene: We conduct two annual Bee Surveys in public spaces, inviting the community to learn about native bees, their habitat, local restoration and conservation efforts, safe methods for catching, identifying, and releasing bees, as well as bee identification. 2. Volunteer events, hosted by City of Eugene Parks and Open Space: These include weekly three-hour events at the Native Plant Nursery, weekly activities at Hendricks Park in the Rhododendron Garden and Native Plant Garden, an intern project designing and planting a pollinator garden at Hendricks Park, ongoing work on restoration plots at Westmoreland, maintenance of pollinator pods on the West Bank of the Willamette River, plantings and restoration at various parks, including Tugman Park and Striker Field, as well as other locations. This effort involves volunteers supporting Pollinator Palace maintenance, mason bee support, Milkweed planting, Camas salvaging and replanting after wildfires, and native flowering shrub plantings at multiple sites. 3. Outreach hosted by City of Eugene Parks and Open Space: Activities include Bee Surveys at Whilamut Natural Area and Westmoreland Park, an annual Wildflower Celebration at Awbrey Park, outreach events with the River Road Community Organization highlighting park restorations, and a tour of the Native Plant Nursery for the 4J school district. 4. Bee Walk hosted by Mount Pisgah Arboretum with Huerto de la Familia: A bilingual walk in June, led by members and staff of Huerto De la Familia, exploring native bees in the Arboretum's garden. 5. Public Bee Walk hosted by Mount Pisgah Arboretum: An April walk exploring the spring native bee fauna at the Arboretum. 6. Powerful Pollinators Walk at Mount Pisgah Arboretum: A family-oriented walk in May exploring pollination and pollinators in the Arboretum. 7. Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Blooms Walk hosted by Mount Pisgah Arboretum: An April walk exploring native plants and pollinators at the Arboretum during peak bloom. 8. Pollinator Walk for University of Oregon Student Sustainability Center, hosted by Mount Pisgah Arboretum: A walk exploring pollinators at the Arboretum with students from the University of Oregon Sustainability Center. 9. Lights Out Program, hosted by Lane County Audubon Society: This program aims to protect pollinators, birds, and wildlife by raising awareness about light pollution. Activities include securing a mayoral proclamation, outreach on the harmful effects of light pollution on pollinators, engaging students in light monitoring surveys, and launching a "Sign the Pledge" initiative. Resources are available on the Lane County Audubon Society website.

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

515

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

1000

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

1



## Policies & Practices

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants 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.*

Our City’s annual “Clean Water Connections” newsletter

(<https://www.eugene-or.gov/468/Stormwater-and-Water-Quality>), sent via hard copy to all homes in Eugene in Spring of each year, includes several short articles covering lawn, garden, and home care, as well as links to resources for more information. The 2023 issue contains a pop-out box highlighting the Northwest Center for Alternative to Pesticides’ “Pesticide Free Pledge.” Beyond Toxics continues to expand our presence at community events to help raise awareness about widespread pesticide use, implications for pollinator health, and provide educational resources to people interested in reducing pesticide use around their homes and gardens.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

N/A

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/638/Integrated-Pest-Management>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37893/Native-Plant-Alternatives?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: