

Bee City USA - Olympia

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.

Park Stewardship hosted or facilitated 130 habitat creation or enhancement work parties supporting 25 projects in 2023. While many of these were focused on invasive plant species removal, the six specific pollinator gardens were prepared or enhanced. In addition, the Public Works Vegetation Management group worked on another 7 projects. Both the Parks Maintenance and Public Works Vegetation Management groups embraced "No Mow May" in appropriate locations and implemented mow reduction plans for other properties.

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

32

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

2200

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

320000

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

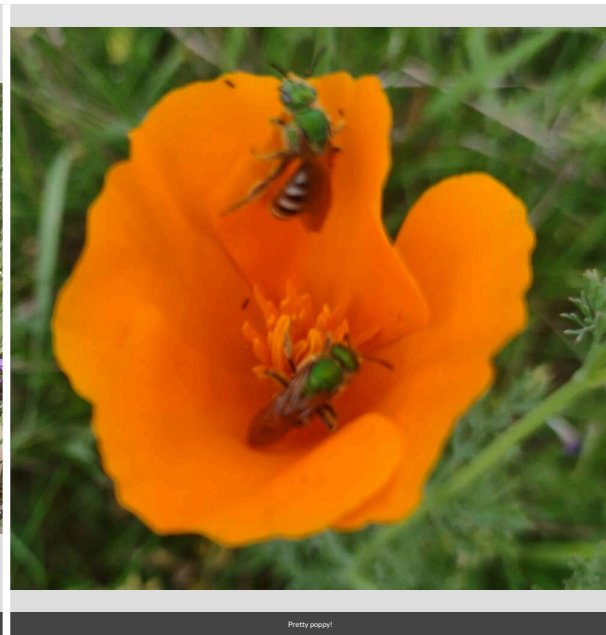
- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Pollinator Garden Success!



More than bees!



Pretty poppy!

Education & Outreach

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

The City of Olympia Parks Stewardship division hosted our second annual Bumble Jubilee event. We celebrated pollinators by doing the waggle dance during a habitat restoration work party. In addition, we provided information and outreach at our annual Arbor Day and Earth Day events, which prompted conversations about No Mow May and alternatives to pesticide use. The Olympia Stormwater education calendar featured cover art from a campaign for students to submit depictions of pollinator friendly yard care.

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

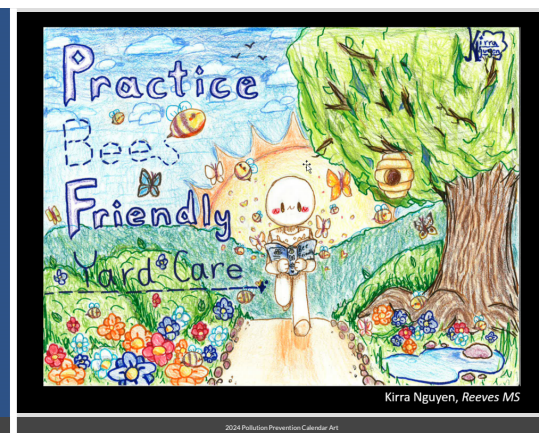
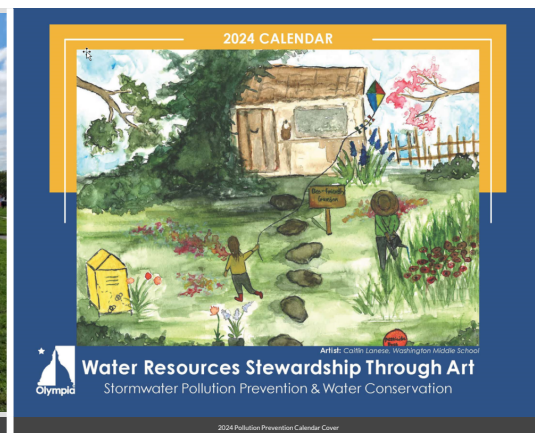
5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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.

All City of Olympia Park properties continue to be pesticide-free. If legally required, noxious weeds may be sprayed by other trained City staff. However, we reduced the spraying of knotweed patches from twice per summer to just once after flowering which reduced the total applications from about 60 to less than 30.

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

While there are no City-led initiatives to create policies around pesticide use, using few or no pesticides is a community-held value.

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

No, but we recently reviewed and updated the plan adopted by the Parks department in 2006 and applied it City-wide.

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

- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds 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.

The City of Olympia Public Works Water Resources division includes staff working on initiatives to improve water quality. Part of the messaging centers around pollinator friendly yard care and reducing pesticide use.



Pesticide Free Park

Olympia™

Volunteers Needed...

to assist with mulching, hand weeding and other pesticide free practices. The success of this one year pilot program is dependant upon volunteers

Experience It!

Parks • Arts • Recreation

To Volunteer Call

360.753.8365

This is a one-year pilot program



Have questions about this project call 360.753.8024

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

https://cms7files.revize.com/olympia/Document_center/Parks%20&%20Recreation/IPM%20FINAL%20Document.pdf

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/21-024_01_1.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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