

Bee City USA - Sammamish

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.

Although the City of Sammamish is a relatively new Bee City, we have a well-established restoration program with both steward led, and city led restoration events occurring throughout the year. In 2023, the city managed just over 106,000 sq ft of habitat and planted over 1700 native plants at our various restoration sites. Efforts at all these sites are focused on removal of invasive species and planting of native plants, many of which also benefit local pollinators. Project Highlights: 1. Our stewards worked independently and in small groups throughout the year to maintain our existing Big Rock Park Central Pollinator Garden which was approaching its 2nd year. They weeded and salvaged plants and collected seeds for use at other restoration sites. (Maintained by committee members) 2. We also installed a new Pollinator Bed at Lower Commons Park. With the help of our stewards and several volunteers we converted an existing landscaped bed into a more pollinator friendly bed by removing some ornamental grasses then planting and seeding with native plants such as Lupine, Puget gumweed, and Columbine among others. (Hosted by committee members) 3. Last, we began a long-term project of converting an area dominated by non-native grasses and invasive plants such as reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry into a pollinator meadow. We started by clearing a 400 sq ft area and covering with a tarp and soil. We plan to clear a buffer area and keep the area free of weeds throughout the upcoming summer. In Fall 2024 we will plant and seed the area and then work on expanding it over the next few years. Additionally, to encourage people and their pets to keep out of the meadow we will be working with our maintenance staff to install a partial fence and signage. The fence will be installed with points of interest for future educational signage and to allow for photo opportunities as the meadow is expanded. (Hosted and supported by Committee members)

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

10

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

356

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

106426

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden



Essex Pollinator Meadow Site Prep, Francine Sanchez



Big Rock Park Central Pollinator Garden 1.5 years after planting, Francine Sanchez



Lower Commons Pollinator Bed Prep, Francine Sanchez

Education & Outreach

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

1. With the help of the Sammamish Stewards serving on the committee we hosted three Pollinator Talks at Big Rock Park Central's Pollinator Garden and hosted our first Pollinator Popup event at Lower Commons Park. Our pollinator talks covered native pollinator plants, seed collection, and planting tips. Our popup event was called "Strawberry Surprise". Our stewards chatted with park patrons and gave out free strawberry plants salvaged from another steward's personal garden. 2. We also worked in partnership with our Parks Planning division to reach out to local schools, girl scout troops, and community volunteers to get 180 fence panels painted to install at our new Big Rock Park South. The park is set to partially open on March 22nd, 2024, but a large portion of it will be fenced off for construction. The panels are part of ongoing project to cover this fence with painted panels to beautify the area during the construction. The theme of the fence panels is Pollinators and people of all ages and artistic abilities will be encouraged to paint one of their own and get it added to the fence. 3. As part of our Youth Board Retreat, we had youth board members hand out seeds and paint pollinator panels. 4. Since we only just recently became a Bee City, we have also been working on spreading the word. We installed one large Bee City Street sign under one of our Welcome to Sammamish signs. Additionally, since the majority of our work is within parks, we also added smaller bee city signs to all our park kiosks and one near our more landscaped pollinator beds. 5. One of our stewards, Steve Marple also worked with a local school to get a pollinator garden installed on campus.

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

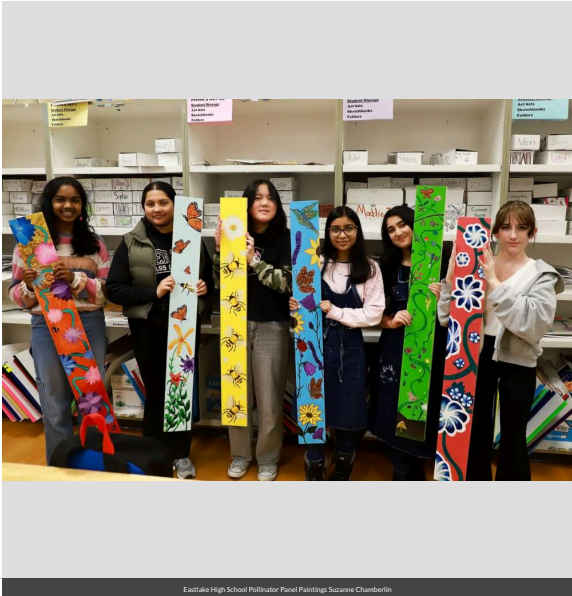
7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

125

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

6



Eastlake High School Pollinator Panel Paintings Suzanne Chamberlin



Eastside Catholic Pollinator Garden Install Steve Marple

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POLLINATOR TALKS

WHEN: Saturday June 10th, 2023

WHERE: Big Rock Central Park, Pollinator Garden

Session 1: 11-11:45 am **Session 2:** 12:15-1 pm

In celebration of **National Pollinator Month**, Sammamish Steward Steve Marple will be providing two pollinator talks at the beautiful Pollinator Garden at Big Rock Central Park. He will be covering how he starts plants from seed, species of plants in the garden and the history of how the garden was started. Sessions are limited to 15 people each.



SIGN UP REQUIRED:

Scan QR code or go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/231504615873052>

Sammamish
Parks and Recreation

Pollinator Talks Flyer: Francine Sanchez

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Since 2022

City of
Sammamish

Policies & Practices

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

With representatives from our Public Works and Parks Departments, we reviewed and updated our Integrated Pest Management Policy. The new policy added in pollinator areas to the list of protected areas with buffers and included language that better covered bees and other pollinators. Additionally, we reviewed and updated the list of pesticides. We also added a new triennial review process so discussions can remain open to removing harmful pesticides and making sure our IPM policy is updated based on the best available science.

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

Our Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator has been working on the Sustainability Hub which includes the Bee City initiative as one of its resources and goals. Additionally, she is putting together a plan for sharing our Integrated Pest Management Policy with the public to encourage reduced use in the community while also promoting pollinator friendly gardens.

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

No

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)

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.

With the recent establishment of our Sustainability Committee and hiring of the city's new Natural Resources and Sustainability (NRS) Coordinator staff member, this will be our next focus. Our NRS Coordinator plans to do a proclamation around National Pollinator Month in June. Additionally our committee plans to host several educational outreach activities and events including Pollinator Pop up, Pollinator Talks, and Farmers Market Popups with educational activities and giveaways!

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Start with small steps, look for ways to partner with existing stewards or other volunteers to host educational events and develop educational materials.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CM-15 Integrated Pest Management Policy November 2023.pdf](#)
<https://www.sammamish.us/projects/integrated-pest-management/>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Sammamish Pollinator Plant List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: