

# Bee City USA - Talent

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.*

**Our city was the fortunate recipient of 2 Pollinator Native Plant Kits from the Xerces Society. With these plants we created a spiral pollinator garden which will not only serve our invertebrates and birds but also serve as an educational awareness tool for our residents, not to mention the beauty it has added to our city.**

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

**3**

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

**25**

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

**3**

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

**2500**

*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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting



In October the Xerces Pollinator Kits arrived! Corin Pease and Michele Blackburn both from Xerces, Talent was the distributing center for Southern Oregon.



The pollinator kits are being assembled.



Weekly maintenance our City Pollinator Gardens. L-r: Yvonne, Cornelia, Karin and Gertrude

## Education & Outreach

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

**Our community held three major native tree planting events which was a collaboration of Talent's Urban Forestry Committee, Rogue Valley Watershed Council, Plant Oregon and our Bee City affiliate.**

*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)?*

70

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

3



Planting the Spiral Garden. L-R: Gertrude, Rachel, Jennifer, Erin, Jack, Denise and Steve.



Arbor Day - Native Tree and Shrub Planting Event (it was a cold and rainy day).



Planting Native Flowers and Shrubs, Jubilee "Women Power" L-R: Rachel, Consuelo, Erin, Gertrude, Jennifer and Denise.

## Policies & Practices

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

Since 2018 our city follows the then established IPM requirements. As of June 18, 2018 zero biocides (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides or chemical fertilizers) have been applied to any city property.

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

Talent has a group of volunteers "Friends of Wagner Creek" who have been stalwart stewards of Wagner Creek and parts of Bear Creek, our two major waterways. Through the Land Stewardship program in our area, several people who own larger properties along minor creeks have been vigilant in helping to erase invasive plants species (blackberries, etc) and replacing them with native trees and shrubs.

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

We have a close affiliation with the Rogue Valley Watershed Council, The Land Stewardship Program, Master Gardeners and thus we strategize on creating healthy habitats for all living beings, not just here in Talent but our Rogue Valley region.

*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.*

Increasingly, through our educational outreach many of our citizens and business owners have been implementing alternatives to biocides, i.e. hand weeding, applications of vinegar/epsom salts/liquid dishwashing soap. A few have also converted their erstwhile grassy areas into a mixture of clover mixed with other flowering plants (self heal, dead nettle, mallow..)

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

The work within our affiliate has reached many people and we are always elated when there is an eagerness to explore

ways to improve their own gardens and land. With positive encouragements good things come about.

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator-Friendly Native Shrubs, Flowers of Southern Oregon - Google Docs \(1\).pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com/>

[gardenintalent@gmail.com](mailto:gardenintalent@gmail.com)

<https://facebook.com/Talent%20Pollinator%20Garden%20Challenge>