

Bee City USA - Tualatin

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.

As mentioned before a program known as Put Down Roots in Tualatin programs 7 to 10 native tree, shrub, and pollinator planting events each year. These programs engage hundreds of community members and students in pollinator habitat creation and protection each year. One specific event was held over the course of 3 weeks at Browns Ferry Park with Design Core students from Tualatin High School. Browns Ferry Park sits along the banks of the Tualatin River and serves as our "Natural Area" park. It has approximately 10 acres of native praries along with wooded riparian buffers along the waters edge. There are miles of walking trails and designated viewing points for waterfowl, the Tualatin River, and the surrounding forests and praries. Desig Core Students, 65 in total, were engaged in creating a new habitat planting along Nyberg Creek, they created an outdoor classroom area with gravel and seating logs near the community center, and mocked up intrepreative educational signage about the environment including the protection of pollinators.

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

7

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

572

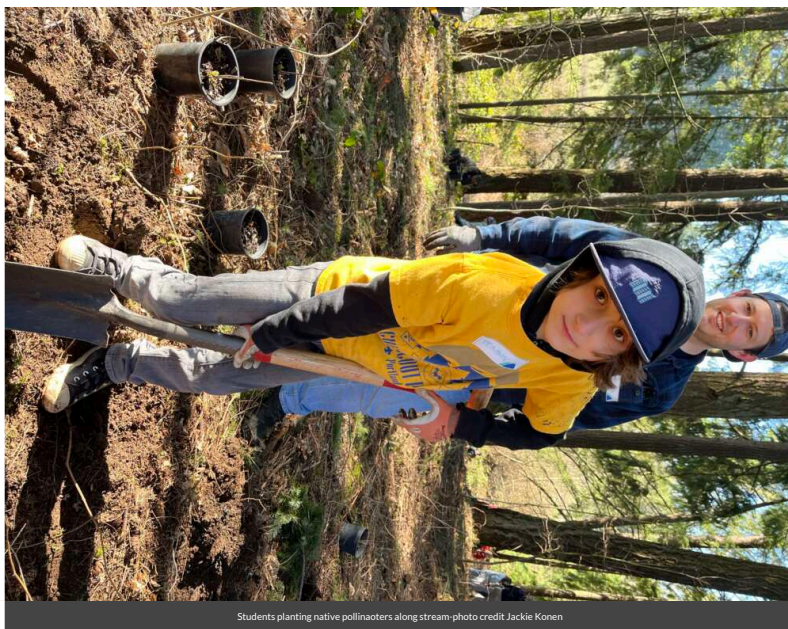
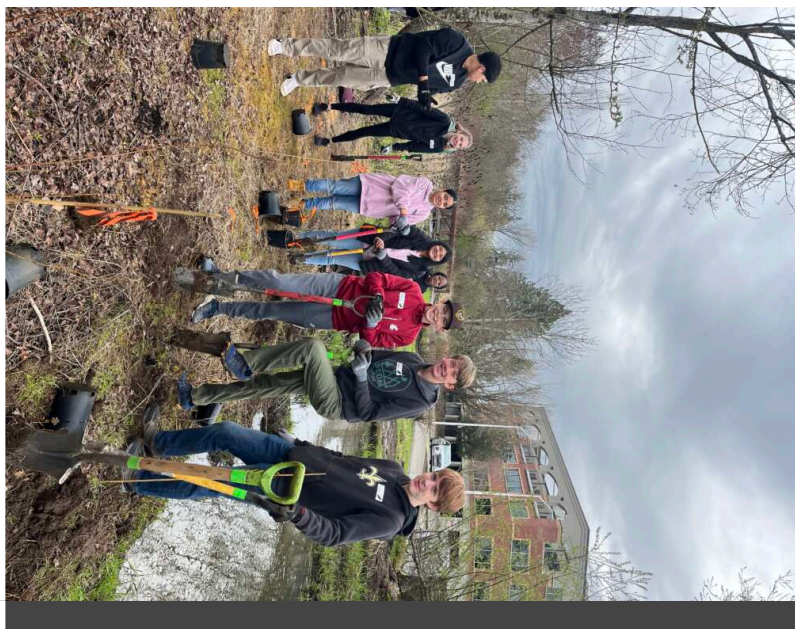
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

34300

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
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Students planting native pollinators along stream-photo credit Jackie Konen

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 Tualatin hosted 7 volunteer community planting events in 2023. These planting events in a program called Put Down Roots in Tualatin, engages students, community members, and local corporate groups with interests in invasive plant removal, native planting restoration work, and pollinator habitat creation. Collectively these groups help to protect native plantings by assisting with removing invasive weed species, watering and mulching newer plantings, as well as planting a total of 2770 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennial pollinator flower species. All of these events were planned and hosted with city staff, a collaboration with Volunteer Services and Parks Maintenance personnel. The largest volunteer planting event, PDRT on Arbor Day, April 28th, 2023, was held at Tualatin Community Park. 175 people were in attendance along with Mayor Frank Bubenik, officials from Portland General Electric and representatives from Oregon State University whom promotional literature about Oregon Master Beekeeper Program, Master Melittologist, and Bee Steward Program. Mayor Bubenik planted a Kentucky Coffee Tree in a lawn area next to our Community Center and volunteers planted "wiindrows" of flowering native shrubs and

pollinator flowers alongside the main driveway into community park. The area that was planted, about 10,00- square feet was once a lawn area that required weekly mowing. The area also serves as a creekside enhancement as the plantings were also adjacent Hedges Creek, a tributary to the Tualatin River. In short we reduced the need to mow, reducing carbon emissions and staff time' and created a native planting that serves pollinators and enhances the natural environment In Tualatins largest Park.

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)?

562

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

2



Arbor Day Mayoral Tree Planting April 8, 2023. photo Jackie Konen

Policies & Practices

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

All Parks Maintenance staff are required to possess and maintain a Public Pesticide Applicator License issued by the State of Oregon Department of Agriculture. By law, staff are required to obtain CEU's to keep licenses current. Oregon State University Extension along with ODA hosts training classes each year for opportunities to obtain required CEU's. These agencies have been providing informational classes about pollinator protection. We never use Neonicotinoids in our park landscapes and have insect thresholds well above the need to do so, We are diligent about not spraying herbicides when undesirable plants are in flower and likely to attract pollinators. Our most invasive plant species is Himalayan Blackberry. Our first response is to provide a mechanical control by chopping the plants to ground level and

only spraying herbicides in the late fall/early winter when the plant are well past flowering and fruiting phases of their life cycle.

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

The City of Tualatin is within months of adopting a formal Climate Action Plan. The CAP has been in development with the efforts of staff from both Engineering and Public Works personell. The CAP is anticipated to outline specific parameters for natural area protections restoration work that will include native pollinators. The plan will also advise staff for reducing pesticide use and the development of a formal Integrated Pest Management Plan.

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

Parks Maintenance staff has incorporated some best management practices taken from the Xerces Society publication "Pollinator Friendly Parks". For example staff have identified lower grade turf areas that are candidates for conversion to native planting sites that are pollinator friendly. Additionally specific areas in our parks have been identified as areas where staff "leave the leaves" for foraging and nesting insects. We even have a couple of miner bee nesting areas near playgrounds where informational signs are posted providing cautionary statements and educational information as opposed to an attempt at eradication.

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.

As a result of our engagement efforts with local corporate groups we do have opportunities to discuss pollinator protection and reducing pesticide use with businesses and residents alike. We refer and encourage residents to participate in the Backyard Habitat Program and seek advice from local Agricultural Extension Services. One of Tualatins largest employers, Lam Research has begun pollinator friendly initiatives on their campus. Their Facility Manager, John Niggly, an avid volunteer with PDRT invited us to tour their campus and review the pollinator gardens they have developed in recent years. They have renovated difficult to maintain areas and water "wasted" areas to native pollinator gardens to make incremental environmental improvements.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Community members who participate in our community events are eager to learn more and share with others

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Tualatin 2020 IPM statement.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [plant-request-form.pdf](#)

<https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/bee-city-usa%C2%AE-city-tualatin>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Beaverlake Nursery Availability Spring 2021 \(\(1\).xlsx](#)



<https://www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/bee-city-usa%C2%AE-city-tualatin>

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