

Bee City USA - Twin Falls

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.

Twin Falls Pollinator Council wrote a letter to our City Council to encourage pollinator friendly plantings in the new fire stations being built. We are in the process of moving the College of Southern Idaho Pollinator Garden to a place in the Breckenridge Farm Gardens to better protect the plants and enhance visitor traffic. This will be north of the existing Firewise and Native Landscape gardens. Twin Falls City Parks Department staff planted 100 plants donated by Native Roots in the Courtney Conservation park.

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

2

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

30

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

3

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

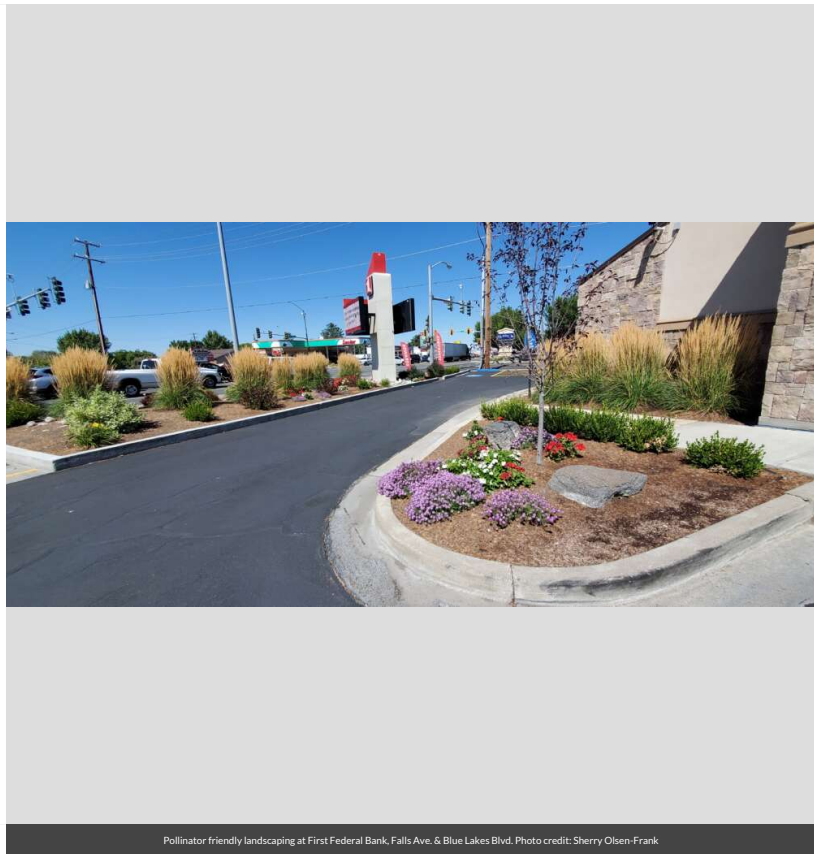
2200

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

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Introducing our first featured garden/landscape, Main Street Gardens. Photo by Pattie Lopshire



Pollinator friendly landscaping at First Federal Bank, Falls Ave. & Blue Lakes Blvd. Photo credit: Sherry Olsen-Frank

Education & Outreach

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

In 2023, the Twin Falls Pollinator Council sponsored a Pollinator-Friendly Plant sale. We had 125 Native Plant trays and 75 "Cottage" Plant trays. Each tray contained four plants of 8 different varieties for a total of 32 plants. These were sold to the general public and many folks purchased two or more. We sold out! We now have age appropriate student education curriculum packets for school education and gave several talks. We collaborated with Native Roots to co-host a booth at the Home & Garden Show touting the benefits of planting native plants for our pollinators. We had a table at the College of Southern Idaho Student Sustainability Council's annual fair featuring our native plant sale and complimentary seed packets. We participated in Orton's Botanical Garden's plant sale in May. We started a "Monthly Featured Garden" on Facebook. We are actively requesting photos of businesses with pollinator friendly landscaping to encourage others to add pollinator friendly plants to their own landscaping. One of our members spoke on bees and other pollinators at the local library for Earth Day. Approx. 50 folk attended.

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

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1550

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

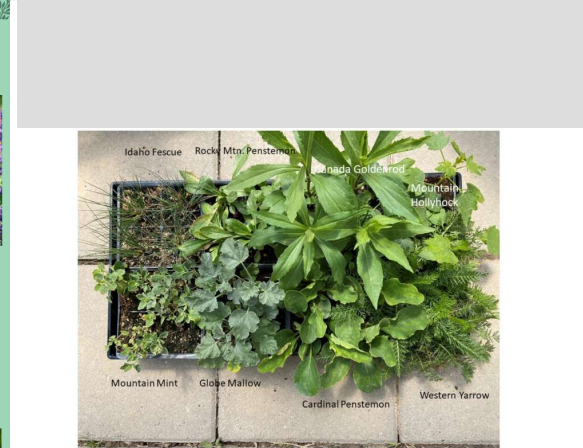
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Volunteers putting the Native Plant trays together before pickup day.



Our Cottage Garden poster.



Native Plant tray identifier.



Tom Courtney Park. Photo credit: Sherry Olsen-Frank

Policies & Practices

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

The City of Twin Falls Parks Superintendent has been invited to attend council meetings. He has attended several meetings over the last two years. We post relevant Bee City USA education opportunities to our FaceBook page for the public's information. In fact, the City of Twin Falls Parks Department had all applicators "attend" a recent class. We now have a webpage to highlight pollinator friendly information and be a resource for our communities.

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

The 2023 Omnibus package signed in by the Honorable Mike Simpson included Community Project Funding of \$4 million for Rock Creek Restoration and Water Quality in Twin Falls, Idaho.

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)
- 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

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.

Twin Falls Pollinator Council endeavored to sponsor a Pesticide Application course to include the City Parks Department applicators and homeowners. We had difficulties with the Idaho Department of Agriculture getting Pesticide Applicator credits so were unable to accomplish that in 2023 but it is on our to-do list for 2024. Pesticide classes sponsored by Bee City USA are passed along to the City Parks Department and has had a positive impact on the applicators, providing awareness of pesticide affects to our pollinators and possible alternatives to a pest problem.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

None

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/ipm/pests>

Recommended Native Plant List: [native plant characteristics.xlsx](#)

<https://www.tfid.org/documentcenter/view/4084>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://idahonativeplants.org/native-plant-resources/>

<http://tfpollinatorcouncil.org/>

magicvalleybees@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TFPollinatorCouncil>