

Bee City USA - West Linn

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.

Volunteer enhanced our established Pollinator Garden at Mary S. Young Park with new pesticide free pollinator plants, mulched areas for weed suppression. Staff and Volunteers planted a new Pollinator Garden at Midhill Park with all native pollinator plants and trees. Mulch and bark chips spread for weed suppression.

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?

27

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

2

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

383

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Other



New Pollinator Garden at Midhill Park (Photo by Tarra Wiencken)



New Pollinator Garden Summer Time Blooms- Prior to weed removal (Photo by Tarra Wiencken)

Education & Outreach

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

We celebrated Arbor Week giving out native plants to citizens along with educational material, staff lead. We celebrated Earth Day with a volunteer work party removing invasives, mulching and planting native oregon grape, staff lead. We celebrated Pollinator Wee with onsite crafts for kids, flowering plant giveaways, educational materials and information by an OSU Master Gardner, staff lead. Addition of a new Pollinator Garden in one of our parks, staff and volunteers.

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

4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

300

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

2



Earth Day Work Day (Photo by Tom Curran)



Pollinator Week (Photo by Tarra Wiencken)



Arbor Week Native Plant Giveaway (Photo by Ron Jones)



Policies & Practices

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

Staff is applying more mulch at park signs, parks planter beds and tree wells to keep spraying down. Trying to plant the correct plant for the area so they will adapt to the environment without a lot of care once established.

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

We have a policy that no chemicals are to be sprayed where the pollinator gardens are. We follow pesticide guidelines along waterways. We work with Clackamas County Soil and Water District for dealing with knotweed along riverbanks in our parks.

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

They did not, but it has been talked about it and will be an agenda item at the meetings.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- 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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- 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.

At this time no. We do try to limit spraying at our City Owned Facilities.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Being Bee City USA gets us thinking a lot about our community and how we can help educate citizens on pollinator information. It is exciting putting together events and partnering with agencies to provide the information.

The designation comes with the following responsibilities:

- A subcommittee has been appointed and charged with assembling and disseminating information on the topics of pollinator-friendly habitat and policies to municipal departments, residents, businesses and developers.
- West Linn has publicly acknowledged the community's commitment by agreeing to a) install/maintain a BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the municipal website which includes the BEE CITY USA liaison(s), links to a PDF of the signed Resolution, and the BEE CITY USA website, and summarizes the pollinator-friendly activities the city has undertaken or accomplished the previous year(s).
- Commit to annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion through events, proclamations and promotions that showcase the municipalities commitment to being a BEE CITY USA affiliate.
- Commit to annually apply for renewal of the community's designation and submit a report of BEE CITY USA activities.

Responsibilities the City Follows to be part of Bee City USA (photo from City Website)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec/parks-integrated-pest-management>

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://nurseryguide.com/find_companies/detail/aurora-nursery

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://champoegnursery.com/>

<http://www.westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec>

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

