

# Bee City USA - Westminster

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.*

The City of Westminster hosted several enhancements projects during 2023. The Standley Lake Pollinator Garden was planted with approximately 300 plants with over 1,000 seeds placed in the soil among 6 different volunteer events. We had a middle school group, girl scout troop, summer camp and City of Westminster volunteers all helping with these events. In the winter, Standley Lake hosted monthly outings to go to Church Ditch along 100th Avenue in Westminster to manually remove teasel rosettes and curly dock. One of the Standley Lake seasonal rangers really loved composting, so he created a compost pile and put it in the Standley Lake Pollinator Garden. This helps us compost after gardening events! During the summer, Standley Lake partnered with Butterfly Pavilion Urban Prairies Project volunteers to research a plot of land for the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program. This involved surveying for blooming plants, monarch eggs, monarch larvae and adult monarchs. Even though no physical changes were made to the land, the research helps give Standley Lake an idea of how the land is being utilized by monarchs, which can lead to land management plans in the future. In June 2023, Goat Green LLC brought 100s of goats to Standley Lake to help with noxious weed management. They grazed for 10 days covering a total of 10 acres. Mile High Youth Corp also helped improve Westminster land. They removed approximately 406 Russian Olive shrubs along the south side of Standley giving the native plants a chance to grow in their place. The Westminster Bee Club was able to meet up with Westminster's Natural Resource Specialist to create a plan to put in native bee homes along Big Dry Creek Trail. In 2023, they put in 5 native bee homes along this trail. Westminster Greenhouse is also a big contributor to land enhancement for the City of Westminster. They help maintain all the gardens throughout the city, especially the golf courses. This year, they focused a lot on bulking up native plants in the greenhouse growing 100s of native, pollinator friendly plants that were planted in fall and spring 2023 and will be planted in the future.

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

13

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

174

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

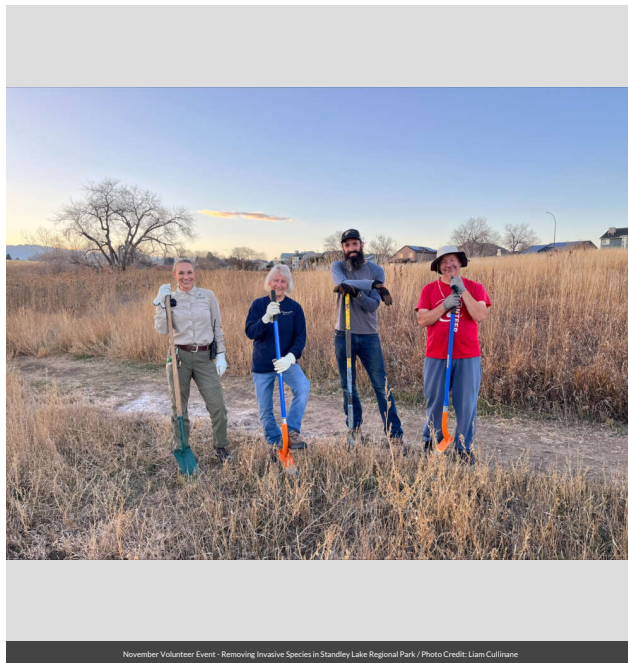
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

534290

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Other



## Education & Outreach

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

We had such a fun time celebrating pollinators during 2023 through outreach events. One of those events occurred on Earth Day. We collaborated with the Butterfly Pavilion to put on a seeding day. The program started out with talking

about what a pollinator is, how they pollinate and common plant species that are pollinated. We then handed out seeds, created wooden labels and went outside into the Standley Lake Pollinator Garden to plant the seeds and place the labels. This not only added more pollinator friendly plants to the Standley Lake pollinator garden, but it also encouraged people to come back and check on the plants they seeded. The following month, we had the Bee Day Bash event to celebrate World Bee Day. This event was focused on honeybees. People learned all about the benefits of honeybees, how to safely be a beekeeper and had the chance to visit the apiary at Standley Lake. It was led by the president of the Westminster Bee Club, Gregg McMahan, and the Secretary of the Westminster Bee Club, Chris Kimmerle. In addition, we celebrated our pollinators throughout the month of June, which is known as Pollinator Month. Starting June 1st, people could pick up Pollinator BINGO at the Standley Lake Nature Center. This encourages people to walk the Standley Lake trails and pay attention to the wildlife that surrounds them. If they find and take photos of pollinators that correspond to a BINGO on the BINGO sheet, they get a prize! We also did Pollinator Community Hour at the College Hill Library. This was a booth at the front of the library people would pass by as they walk in. It was staffed with Standley Lake's Park Naturalist who had fun visuals out, different types of honey people could try and lots of great information about pollinators. Another event was held at Irving Street Library. For several hours during the day, Standley Lake's Bilingual Naturalist had a crafts table. Anyone could come in and enjoy snacks while doing a fun craft of a caterpillar, moth, butterfly and more! The festivities ended with the Native Buzzers program. This was led by the president of the Westminster Bee Club, Gregg McMahan, and City of Westminster Natural Resource Specialist, Liam Cullinane. They took people out to the Standley Lake pollinator garden and talked about bees native to Colorado, the flowers the native bees enjoy and the native bee home the bees occupy. After, they created their own native bee homes with wooden logs (with pre-drilled holes) and straws they colored. It was a great way to teach the community about native bee species, the plants they enjoy and the homes they prefer. The last pollinator event that took place was at the check in of our Family Camp Night event. This event is for families to have a chance to not only camp, but have a night filled of nature programs. When guests checked in, we had a booth all about butterflies they could go to and check out. It was a great way to spread the knowledge about various different butterflies, but especially monarchs.

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

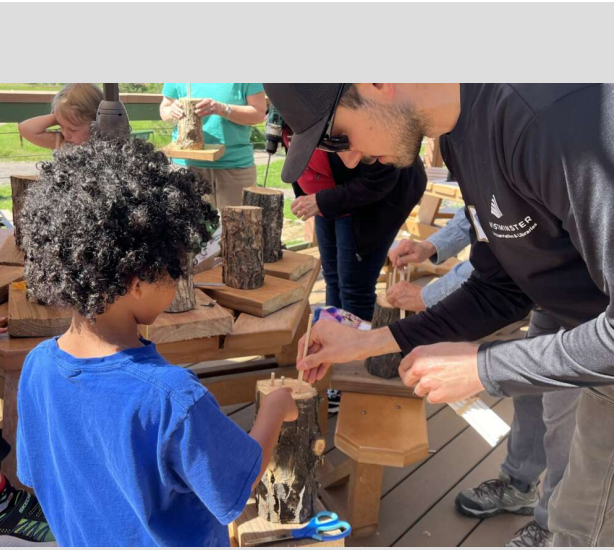
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*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

224

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

2



Native Buzzers Program / Photo Credit: Hailey Tresch



Label for Seed Planted on Earth Day / Photo Credit: Anne Gardetto



Junior Ranger Pollinator Crafts and Books Program / Photo Credit: Anne Gardetto



## Policies & Practices

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

The City of Westminster does its best with managing pesticides, herbicides and insecticides to make them more pollinator friendly. Walnut Creek Golf course follows a strict IPM plan set forth by the Audubon International Signature Sanctuary Program. The inoculation of native habitat with biological control agents is often used near the beehives that are located at the golf course. Some of the releases include hemlock defoliating moths, field bindweed gall mites, and Canadian Thistle rust fungus spores. They also never use neonicotinoid chemicals on the Walnut Creek or Legacy Ridge Golf Courses. Standley Lake has a strict no chemical use within its 3,000-acre park. Other methods are used such as hand pulling, goat grazing and mowing. The City of Westminster Open Space has a noxious weed plan they follow. They make sure they are protecting pollinators in every way. They release biocontrol all over the city's open spaces (Canadian Thistle rust fungus spores is used most often), minimize spraying any noxious weeds that are in flower (unless they absolutely have to – only list A species), use the lowest rates of herbicide possible for the targeted plants, mow in the hot summer months and do not apply chemicals that can vaporize and drift.

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

**Not at this time. We continue to use the policies that are currently in place.**

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

**Not at this time.**

*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
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- 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.*

Westminster Open Space always advocates for reduction in pesticide use. In 2023, the Westminster Hills Open Space Area Management Plan started. This involved a lot of outreach to the community through roving interpretation, surveys, city council meetings and an open house about how to protect the land. The outreach involved several conservation topics and reduction of pesticide/herbicide/insecticide was one of those topics.

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

We are learning that it is best to start small. There is so much that always needs to be improved, but it is best to do a little at a time with high quality than a lot at a low quality.

## **Comprehensive Noxious Weed Management Plan** **City of Westminster, Colorado**

The purpose of this plan is to provide noxious weed management information and guidelines to residents in the City of Westminster.

More information can be obtained from:

Jefferson County Invasive Species Management - <http://jeffco.us/weed-and-pest/weeds/noxious-weed-information/>

Colorado Weed Management Association - [www.cwma.org](http://www.cwma.org)

Center for Invasive Plant Management - [www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org)

Colorado State University - <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pubs.html#natr>

Colorado Department of Agriculture- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxiousweeds>

Weed law:

The Colorado Noxious Weed Management Act -

Pesticide labels and safety information –

<http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database>

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu/>

Information on pesticide toxicity, environmental fate, or mode of action – 1-800-858-7378

Within this guide:

Pg – State weed law summary and implications to City of Westminster residents.

Pg - Most troublesome weed species in the City of Westminster and best management practices.

Pg – Organic weed control

For further information please contact:

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Noxious Weed Management Plan - Front Page / Photo Credit: Anne Gardetto

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [NoxWeedMgmtPlan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [COWPlantList\(April2022\) \(1\) \(1\).xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://plantselect.org/>

