

Bee City USA - Thousand Oaks

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.

In 2023, our community undertook significant efforts to enhance pollinator habitats. Specifically, we established a new pollinator garden at a City facility, enriching the local environment with a dedicated space designed to support native pollinators. Additionally, in collaboration with a Conejo Valley Audubon Society, we replanted and revitalized an existing habitat garden at Heritage Park. These projects were pivotal in our commitment to promoting biodiversity and sustainability, fostering environments that support and protect pollinators essential to our ecosystem. City staff work with the local Daisy/Brownie Girl Scouts troop to plant six native oak tree at a local greenbelt to provide habitat.

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

1

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

15

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

2

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

8000

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
- Roadside/rights of way planting

Education & Outreach

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

Hosted Arbor Earth Day, where we proudly hosted a booth dedicated to promoting Bee City USA initiatives and educating the community about their importance. We distributed approximately 120,000 beneficial insects, emphasizing their crucial role in reducing the need for insecticides throughout our City. Our outreach efforts also included distributing informative materials advocating for the use of mulch and woodchips as eco-friendly alternatives to herbicides in weed control practices. In addition to insect distribution, we distributed around 880 pollinator-friendly plants. These plants were chosen specifically for their ability to support local ecosystems by providing essential habitat and food sources for bees and other pollinators. Through educational sessions and interactive displays, we highlighted the myriad benefits of these plants, underscoring their role in fostering biodiversity and enhancing the natural beauty of our community. The event was a testament to our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, aiming to inspire residents to join us in creating a more pollinator-friendly environment for generations to come.

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

1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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

8

Policies & Practices

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

The City has integrated pollinator awareness and adheres to Bee City USA standards in its educational programs for staff regarding pesticide applications. This initiative ensures that pesticide use is conducted in a manner that prioritizes the protection and preservation of pollinator populations within our community.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

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.

The city plays a vital role in sustainability through its annual production of over 510 tons of woodchips. Of these, 250 tons are distributed to the community, serving as effective water conservation tools and weed barriers that significantly reduce the need for pesticides. This initiative not only promotes environmental stewardship but also empowers residents to adopt eco-friendly practices in their landscaping efforts. Moreover, the city utilizes the remaining 270 tons of woodchips within its own landscape areas and center medians. This strategic use not only minimizes pesticide applications but also enriches the soil with essential nutrients, fostering healthier growth for plants and trees throughout urban spaces. By integrating woodchips into urban landscaping practices, the city not only enhances aesthetic appeal but also strengthens ecological resilience, creating sustainable environments that benefit both residents and local wildlife.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) _Thousand Oaks, CA.pdf](#)

<https://www.toaks.org/departments/public-works/sustainability/landscaping/integrated-pest-management-ipm>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Recommend Native Plant List -Forestry Master Plan 2017.pdf](#)

<https://devilmountainnursery.com/plant-catalog/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://turningpointfoundation.org/growing-works/>