

Bee City USA - Bellevue

Report on 2024



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

Bee City hosted a contest for Bellevue businesses to have a pollinator garden designed and installed near their place of business. Businesses submitted applications describing why they wanted the garden and how they would use it. The winner of the contest was Chocolat Abeille (chocolatabeille.com), a local candy shop that specializes in handmade chocolates, many of which contain honey from the hives that are located in their on-site pollinator garden. In October of 2023 the Bellevue City Parks department informed us that, due complaint of gardens looking unsightly, they would be removing certain pollinator gardens in Everett Park. That evening, a group assembled to salvage as many native plants as possible from those areas, and moved them to an approved area to start a new garden in 2024. By the end of 2024 these new pollinator gardens were installed near a water source, playground, and walking path where they are visible to the public. (see pictures) We have plans to install signage this year and add more plants.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?

12

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

186

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

12

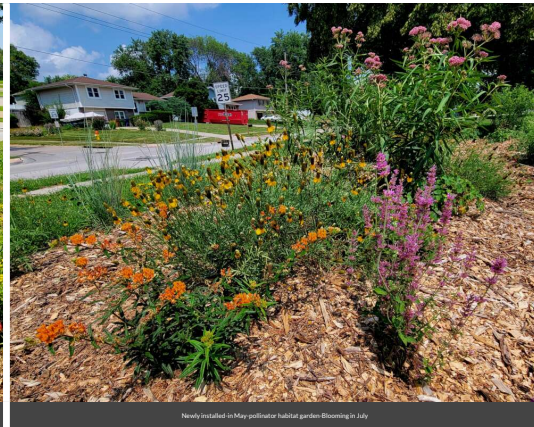
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

78858

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)

- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- School garden



Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

Green Bellevue has many regular events in which our Bee City committee is involved. In the summer, we give away native pollinator plants at the Bellevue farmers market. This is an excellent chance to educate people about pollinator conservation because we have contact with people who might not otherwise have taken interest in pollinator conservation. The market runs for 16 weeks, giving people regular and reliable access to our plants and educational resources. We give away plants at other events, including Nebraska Monarchs, and Milkweed and Cookies (sponsored by PATH). We also participate in 2 Earth Day events annually: Bellevue Earth Day and Omaha Earth Day. These events attract a wider audience and are a great opportunity for us to educate about pollinator conservation and Bee City. Bellevue Native Plant Society hosts a seed share that we tabled at in 2023 and 2024. This is one important way that we promoted our Pollinator Pledge, which enlists residents to commit to certain pollinator-friendly gardening practices in their own yard, including planting native plants and refraining from pesticide use. To date, 37 households have taken the pledge. At the seed share we also give away seeds and offer pollinator conservation education. Each month, Green Bellevue covers a sustainability-related topic in their monthly meeting. The Bee City committee presents pollinator conservation education at one meeting every year.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?

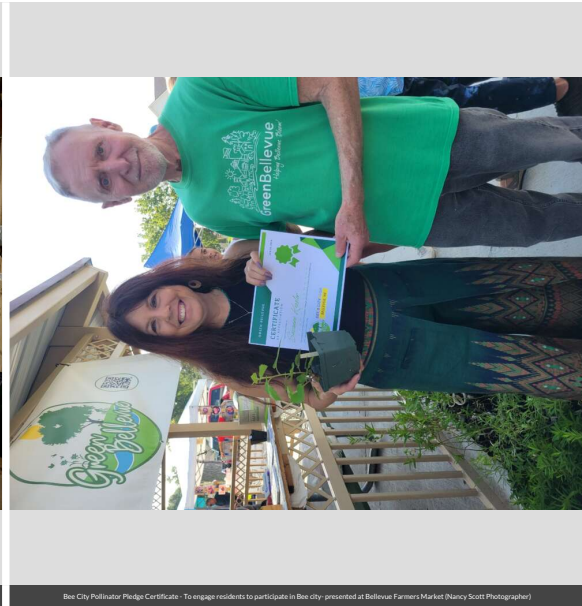
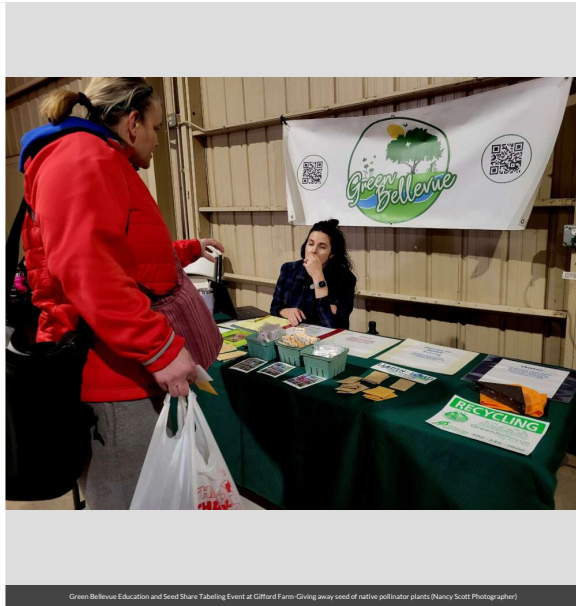
47

How many people attended those events (in total)?

5726

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

4





Policies & Practices

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

We have used mulch from local arborists to suppress weeds instead of spraying, and refrained from using any insecticides on any of the gardens we have installed or maintained. Edges of gardens are maintained by digging a French trench to edge gardens not surrounded by concrete.

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.

37 participants signed the pollinator pledge in which they check that they "will garden in a pesticide-free way as much as possible." After every item on the pledge, as with this one about pesticide use, there is a short explanation. "The widespread use of pesticides, insecticides and herbicides, causes many pollinators to decline. Insecticides can cause direct deaths and herbicides kill the plants needed by pollinators. Plants or seeds that are treated with neonicotinoids are toxic to pollinators."

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

Our IPM has been submitted to the Bellevue Parks Department for their review. Also, on the Bellevue 411 Facebook page, which has 23,000 followers, we have posted information about pollinator conservation, as well as other environmental education.

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

Nancy Scott participates yearly in Tree City USA seminars, and is a Nebraska Certified Nursery and Landscape professional, which requires her to attend the 2 yearly conferences by the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association. Nancy and Don Preister have participated in education programs by The Nebraska Forest Services.

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)**
- **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



Beds are edged using flat spades, then mulched to keep weeds down and to reduce the need for frequent weeding. (Nancy Scott photographer)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

There needs to be continuity when someone leaves the group. We now have multiple co-chairs and are always recruiting new people to be on the board, so that if one person leaves, there are others who are informed.

Committee Photo



Green Bellevue Bee City Committee, (Steve Rothe, photographer)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [BellevueBeeCityUSA-IPM-Plan-v1.1.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Recommended-Bellevue-Natives-for-the-Home-Landscape-1.xlsx](#)
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jcg5yRAapg3Hnnk1I37I8CDyntU0zWCu/edit?gid=1314508274#gid=1314508274>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Supplier, Bellevue NE.docx](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/midwestnatives>

<https://www.greenbellevue.org/bee-city>
admin@greenbellevue.org

<https://www.instagram.com/greenbellevuene>

<https://www.facebook.com/Green.Bellevue>

