

Bee City USA - Carson City

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.

In 2024, a total of 3 pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects activities were held in Carson City. Arbor Day, April 26, 2024 In celebration of Arbor Day, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff worked to plant three trees in the ALS Grove in Mills Park – one of which was a flowering Linden tree, to help support pollinators. Horsecreek Ranch Thistle Dig, August 3, 2024 In August, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff and volunteers completed an invasive species removal project at Horsecreek Ranch, a property that Carson City holds a conservation easement on. This beautiful meadow property is very sensitive to herbicide, so to combat the invasive species bull thistle, and to use an alternative to chemical – volunteers do projects annually to reduce the invasive weed infestation. Empire Ranch Pollinator Garden Two events took place in the fall to plant nearly 200 native pollinator plants at Empire Ranch Trailhead, an Open Space property in Carson City. The two-acre parcel that includes the parking lot and trailhead for the Empire Ranch Trail is the perfect location for a pollinator garden. On October 23, 2024, in partnership with a local non-profit: River Wranglers, we participated in the “Conserve the Carson River Workday”. 21 6th grade students from St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School joined staff in planting approximately 40 pollinator friendly native shrubs. On October 2nd, 2024 11 volunteers joined Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff to plant approximately 150 pollinator friendly wildflowers, as well as native grasses. Future phases will include development of educational and interpretive signage, an interpretive trail, and additional planting and seeding activities. We anticipate this project to take several years to finish and phase one was completed this fall.

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

3

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

25

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

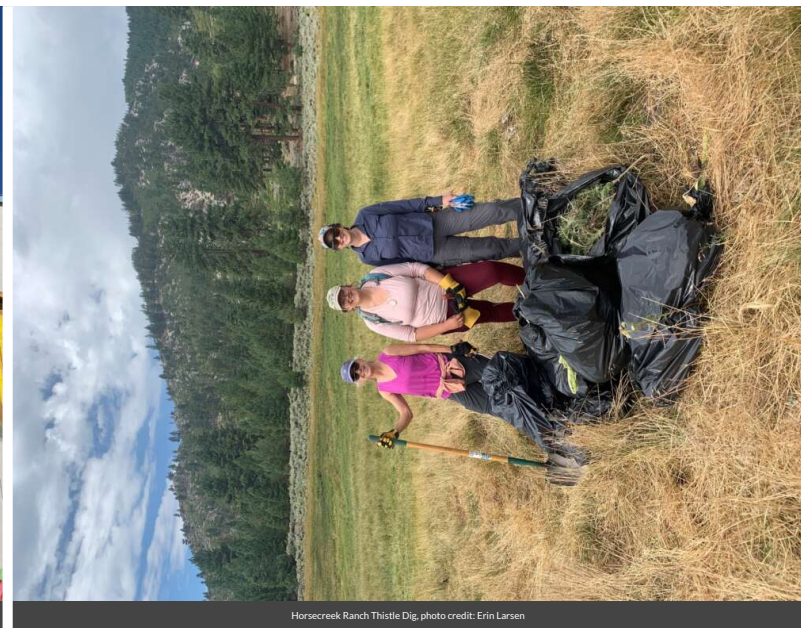
1

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

43000

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



Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, a total of 6 pollinator conservation events and outreach activities were held in Carson City. Carson City Library Display, June 1 – June 30, 2024 Each year in June, the Bee City Executive Committee installs a display at the Carson City Library to celebrate Pollinator Month. This colorful and inviting display is both educational and decorative, and gets the public and library visitors engaged and thinking about pollinator conservation. This event was hosted by the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee. Pollinator Month Proclamation, June 6, 2024 The Carson City

Board of Supervisors read a proclamation at the beginning of June to recognize Pollinator Month and celebrate Carson City's continued support of pollinator conservation, education and habitat creation. Pollinator Parade, June 29, 2024 The last Saturday in June, the Bee City Executive Committee invite the public to participate in a Pollinator Parade through downtown Carson City. This costumed walk invites the public to don their favorite pollinator outfit and celebrate how important pollinators are in our community. This year we had butterflies, bees and even mushrooms! We're starting to get a whole ecosystem joining us on our Parade. This event was hosted by the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee. Carson City Mural Festival, September 15-20, 2024 As part of the Carson City Mural Festival, a mural was completed at the Carson City Community Center to celebrate the diversity of native plants that grow in our region. This gorgeous mural serves as a reminder to the public the type of plants we need to plant, as well as conserve in order to sustain our pollinator populations! Bee Friendly Nevada, Perennial Planting Event, September 28, 2024 At the Carson City Farmer's Market, the Carson City Bee City #76 Executive Committee was joined by Bee Friendly Reno to provide the public with an education opportunity to learn more about planting fall perennials to create or enhance pollinator habitat. Local non-profit, Vital Bee Buds joined to assist with the education and we even raffled off a few beautiful flowering perennial plants to the public. Additionally, Carson City shared copies of the Pollinator Friendly Plant List that we developed to encourage planting of those species on private property. These efforts combine education and habitat creation, which are two very important goals for Carson City. This event was hosted by the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee.

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

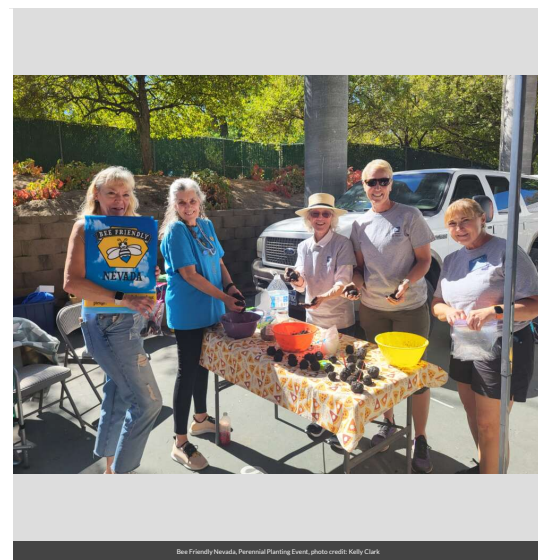
10

How many people attended those events (in total)?

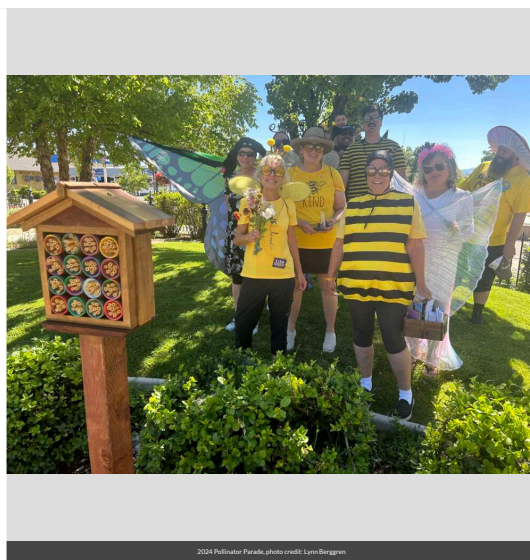
100

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

2



Bee Friendly Nevada, Perennial Planting Event, photo credit: Kelly Clark



2024 Pollinator Parade, photo credit: Lynn Berggren



Carson City Library Display, Pollinator Month, photo credit: Erin Larson

Policies & Practices

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

Carson City currently has an Integrated Pest Management Plan, reviewed and approved by multiple Departments. This plan is used extensively throughout Parks, Recreation & Open Space, with specific emphasis in our undeveloped natural areas (Open Space) many of which are herbicide free or only spot spraying is used. Staff work to ensure timing of required herbicide application, for treatment of noxious weeds, is done prior to the plant flowering to limit potential exposure to pollinators. We also have a robust Volunteer Program, and frequently recruit volunteers to remove noxious and invasive weed species by hand, as applicable. This helps reduce our reliance on herbicides.

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.

Bee City Executive Committee Meetings: April 16, 2024 The Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee met in April 2024 to discuss Pollinator Month, education and outreach events, and possible education initiatives with local landscapers related to neonics. The hope is to develop a training program for local landscapers to learn more about Bee City USA, pollinator friendly actions, and the rules and regulations surrounding neonics in the State of Nevada. We hope to begin development of this program in 2025.

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

At this time, no policy revision initiatives related to pesticides have been proposed in Carson City.

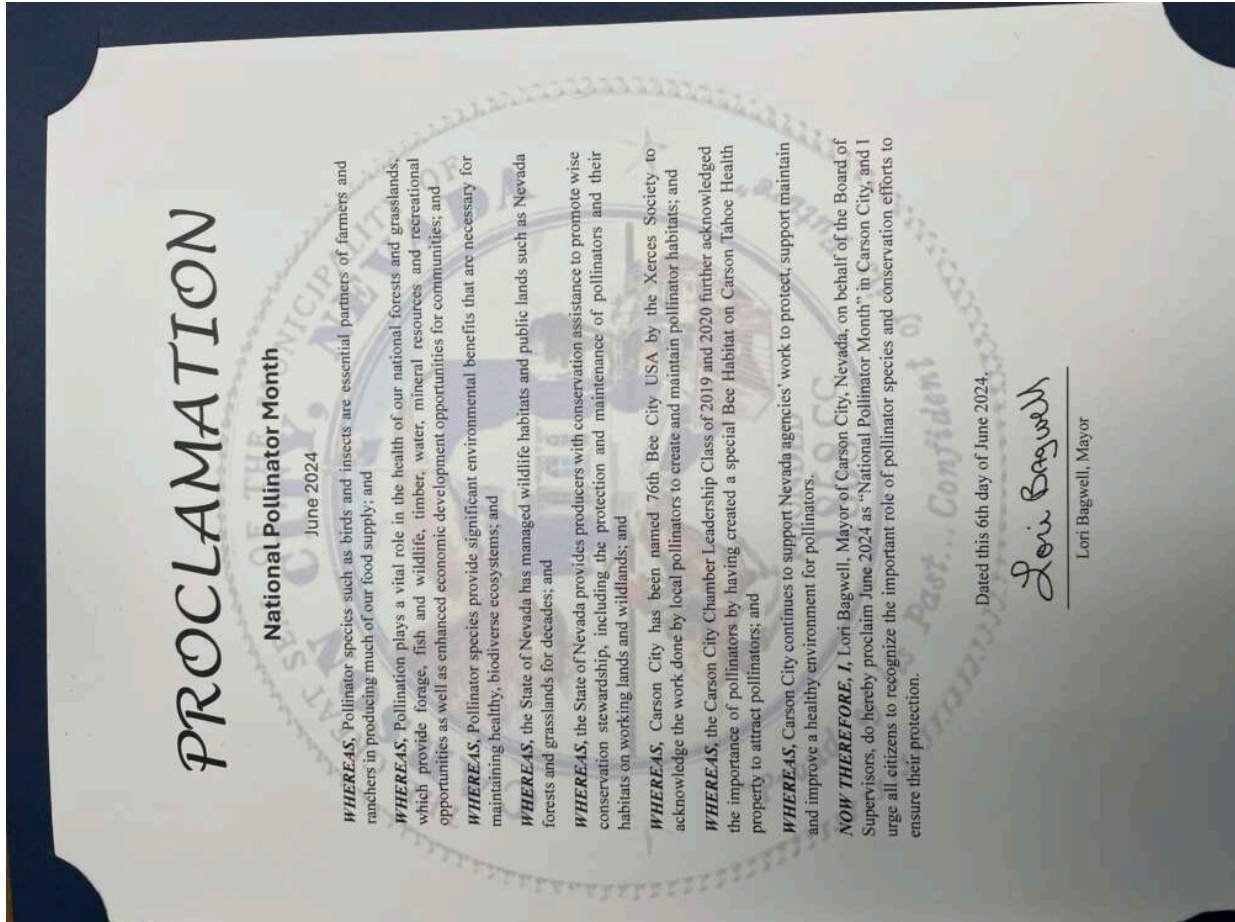
Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

Pollinator Steward Certification Through Pollinator Partnership, a non-profit 501(c)3, two Parks, Recreation & Open

Space staff are currently pursuing a "Pollinator Steward Certification," which is a 1-2 year process involving a combination of coursework and implementation of actions that support pollinators. The courses include pollinator biology, identification and monitoring, and habitat creation in several different types of environments such as parks, rights-of-way, urban gardens, and farms. In addition to coursework, participants must create pollinator habitat and conduct an educational outreach activity. Staff intend to satisfy the requirements of their Pollinator Stewardship Certification this fall through continued efforts at the Empire Ranch Trailhead Pollinator Garden.

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



Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We would love to share more about our experiences creating a requirement for developers to choose 50% of their project plant palette from the Carson City Pollinator Friendly Plant List. This requirement is now codified in Carson City Municipal Code.

Committee Photo

Learn More

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

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator Friendly Plant List.xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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