

Bee City USA - Estacada

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 the fall of 2024, the Estacada Bee City U.S.A. committee initiated and led two habitat creation and enhancement projects. The first was based at the site of the intersection of two of the main roads in Estacada, and across from the city's only Middle School. Each day people drive by the space to drop their kids off at the elementary, middle, and high schools along with to get their morning cup of coffee, with a small coffee shop right next to the site. The site was a corner of poor soil compacted and with a layer of bark chips laid over the surface. When we were developing a local list of nurseries, one of the nurseries was enthusiastic in the effort and offered to give plants to see the corner site developed into a greener space instead of the ugly bark chip/dirt space. In November we had a work party, where we had a load of soil come in to enrich the soil where we planted shrubs, grasses, and succulents. The people from the nursery and others in the community volunteered, including donating and helping set flagstones through the space as a path. Come spring the seeds sown and the plants set should bring further color and interest to the publicly visible space. The second site was in collaboration with the Estacada Public Library to convert the grassy area with shrubs in front of the building and by the parking lot into a small wildflower meadow. The space is visible from the road as well, which is frequently commuted for people going in and out of Estacada. We successfully garnered multiple volunteers through media engagement. With the presence of dense grass, the edges were cut and flipped and then the entirety of the area had cardboard set down. Soil was spread over the entirety of the area, and a donation of soil was received from a nursery as well. The same week, a mix of native seeds were dispersed that will hopefully bring about the space being filled with color and life come spring.

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

2

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

25

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

3000

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

- Flower garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Kids helping to spread cardboard for the new pollinator garden. (Kalika Stanton)

Education & Outreach

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

Starting in the spring, the Estacada Bee City U.S.A. committee participated in multiple events for outreach on pollinator conservation. These included talking with people of various backgrounds, from small children to predominantly retired people. In November of 2023 in collaboration with the Estacada Public Library, a small exhibit was composed of art

depicting pollinators of the Pacific Northwest, including a local and threatened species of bee: *Bombus occidentalis*. After about six months it went to the Estacada City Hall, where it was displayed in the council chambers for another 6 months. In April we met with two classes of 4th and 5th graders at Summit Learning Charter school to give a presentation on native bees and then look at some of the native plants that support pollinators on the school campus. For Earth day, the Estacada Public Library had an event that the committee tabled at. This included giving out native plant seedlings. We had two events in collaboration with and hosted by the Sandy Bee City U.S.A. committee. The first was in early spring, with a panel of people from Estacada and Sandy knowledgeable on bees and habitat creation. The second was in May for World Bee day, where there was a showing of My Garden of a Thousand Bees at a theater in Sandy. We tabled at the event and helped with getting attendance from Estacadans as well. During the summer, we tabled at the city event Arts in the Creek, where we shared information on pollinators and had activities to engage people.

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

8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

300

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.

The city has a very solid pest management practice currently, focusing prevention in having native and hardier varieties of plants that require little maintenance and are less sensitive to pests. For the Bee City U.S.A. outreach, there was always literature and handouts available to provide a greater understanding of pesticides and their safe usage for residents. The City of Estacada and Estacada Bee City U.S.A. committee have both collaborated with the non-profit organization Clackamas River Basin Council, which focuses on water health and safe practices for pesticide usage. This includes emphasizing a reduction of pesticide usage and use of less hazardous chemicals with long persistence.

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.

Clackamas River Basin Council is working on initiatives to have cities and individuals pledge to be pesticide free. Representatives from this organization have also worked with city staff to pledge to minimize pesticides and also table at community events to inform the general public about pesticide use and alternatives. The Bee City Estacada group is working with CRBC often for community outreach at events.

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

No

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

No

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



City street art advertising the initiation of our Bee City designation. (Marek Stanton)

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Estacada Integrated Pest Management Plan \(1\).pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [pnwplants.pdf](#)

<https://www.cityofestacada.org/wp-content/uploads/6197.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Bee-City-Estacada-Plant-Resources.pdf](#)

<https://www.cityofestacada.org/wp-content/uploads/Bee-City-Estacada-Plant-Resources.pdf>

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