

Bee City USA - Eugene

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.

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space continued their commitment to pollinator-friendly landscapes by incorporating native plants in park renovations and restoration efforts. Notable projects included new pollinator plantings in Monroe Park, Washington Jefferson Park, and Westmoreland Park. Native flowering perennials and shrubs were integrated into pollinator hedgerows and raingardens, providing season-long bloom and habitat complexity. In natural areas, prairie and wetland restoration work at locations such as Golden Gardens and Wild Iris Ridge included targeted removal of invasive species and re-establishment of native wildflowers and grasses that support bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Beyond Toxics organized several hands-on community events to enhance pollinator habitat. At Razor Park, community members and children participated in spring bee surveys and learned about native bees through safe catch-and-release identification, raising awareness about pollinator needs while observing them in an active restored habitat. At Golden Gardens Park and Westmoreland Park, Beyond Toxics hosted habitat restoration work parties in collaboration with the City of Eugene and Friendly Area Neighbors. Volunteers helped remove invasive species like blackberry and teasel and planted native pollinator-supporting species to improve biodiversity and habitat function. Lane County Audubon Society continued to support pollinator habitats through bird-friendly native plant education and advocacy, including promoting pollinator gardens as part of broader wildlife habitat enhancement and by participating in outreach events that emphasized the ecological connection between pollinators and birds.

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

10

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

1000

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

3

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

250000

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- 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
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting

Education & Outreach

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

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division: Pollinator Pods: Creation and enhancement at Hendricks and Tugman Parks, and the Whilamut Natural Area, with 160 native plants added. **Riparian Corridor Enhancement:** Along the Willamette River in the Whilamut Natural Area, 450 trees and shrubs planted with over 150 volunteers across six events. **Native Wildflower Seeding:** 460 pounds of seed representing 28 species distributed across various habitats. **Shrub and Tree Plantings:** 820 flowering shrubs and small trees planted in the Ridgeline Park system and West Eugene Wetlands. **Westmoreland Park Restoration:** Invasive grass removal leading to the resurgence of native camas bulbs and other flowering species. **Beyond Toxics: Golden Gardens Invasive Plant Removal:** Community work parties focused on removing invasive species to restore native habitats. **Birds, Bees & Turtles, Oh My!:** A family-friendly event at Golden Gardens Park featuring bird tours, bee surveys, and turtle walks. **Bee Jazzy Benefit Concert:** The 10th annual fundraiser held at Silvan Ridge Winery, supporting pollinator conservation efforts. **Beauty of the Bee Photo Contest:** An annual contest celebrating pollinators through photography. **Community Bee Surveys:** Springtime bee surveys at Rasor Park engaging children and community members in a safe, hands-on catch-and-release method to identify native bees and foster appreciation for pollinator diversity. **Golden Gardens Invasive Plant Removal:** Community work parties focused on removing invasive species to restore native habitats. **Westmoreland Habitat Restoration:** Collaborative work party with the City of Eugene and Friendly Area Neighbors to restore pollinator habitat by removing invasives

and planting native species

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

1000

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1000

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

1

Policies & Practices

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

Beyond Toxics, alongside coalition partners, advocated for a policy that would classify neonicotinoids as Restricted Use Pesticides. This proposed policy did not make it through the legislative session in tact.

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.

Beyond Toxics is currently collaborating with a coalition of pollinator advocates to develop a 2026 plan for implementing statewide policy that helps reduce widespread pesticide use throughout the state. This is an ongoing process.

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

Yes. The City of Eugene continues its restoration and management efforts along Amazon Creek, which include reducing pesticide use and prioritizing ecologically sound practices. Native plantings, invasive species removal, and strategic mowing regimes are part of the long-term plan to restore habitat along the riparian corridor while protecting water quality and reducing harm to pollinators and other wildlife. These efforts align with Eugene's broader commitment to integrated pest management (IPM) and sustainable urban watershed health.

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
- 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
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Engaging volunteers in habitat restoration and maintenance significantly reduces the need for chemical pest control methods

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/638/Integrated-Pest-Management>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37893/Native-Plant-Alternatives?bidId=>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: