

Bee City USA - Livingston

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.

The Livingston Library removed the lawn and converted the space to native landscaping. In 2024, plans began to establish and provide pollinator habitat in downtown Livingston. The Bee City Committee did not host this event. Bethany has also led two habitat enhancement projects, partnering with the local bike club and trail stewards. Along approximately half a mile of the O'Street Connector and Barn Stormer Trails, 16 volunteers planted native wildflower seeds (approximately 10 lbs of a mix of early- and late-blooming species) and hand pulled approximately 100 lbs of invasive plants. The Bee City Committee met several times with Livingston's city manager to discuss plans for developing a pollinator corridor in Livingston beginning with second street (2025), which is a main thoroughfare in the town. The city manager also suggested developing a pollinator path along the town's lagoon beginning in 2025.

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?

12

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

3

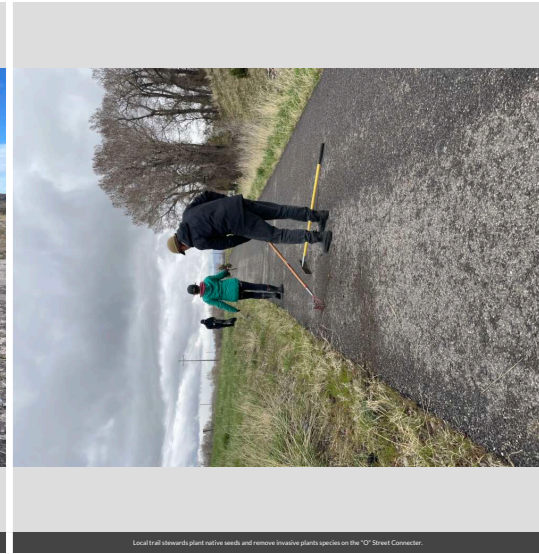
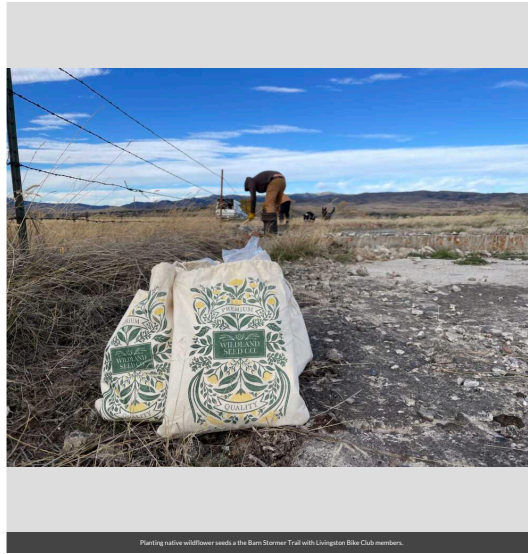
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

5000

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

- 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

- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Planting native wildflower seeds at the Barn Stomper Trail with Livingston Bike Club members.

Local trail stewards plant native seeds and remove invasive plants species on the "O" Street Connector.

Education & Outreach

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

On April 10, the Bee City Committee presented a digital webinar for Park County Environmental Council's Community Conversation where we shared information about Livingston becoming a Bee City, increased awareness about pollinators, and encouraged participation in the Montana Bumble Bee Atlas. On May 4, 2024, a local non-profit, Freshwater Parters, hosted a Native Plant Sale. Bee City Committee member Michelle Toshack hosted a table at the event, sharing free "Livingston Loves Bees" signs designed by Committee member Clay Bolt. We distributed 50 yard signs at the event. Bethany Allen, Committee member, also hosted a table representing Park County Environmental Council, and distributed wildflower seed mixes to the public. On July 24, Committee member Michelle Toshack hosted a "Pollinators Exploration Day" for Farm 2 School high schoolers, where participants learned about pollinator conservation and spent the day catching insects and photographing them using clip-on macro lenses. We were thrilled to catch the threatened western bumble bee! Bethany Allen, committee member, formed a "Livingston Lawn Liberators" group for people interested in, or experienced in, converting lawn to native landscaping. During these gatherings, the group swaps native seeds and plants, shares information, and hosts native plant landscaping tours throughout Livingston. In addition she has led a "Pull a Weed, Plant a Seed" field day with Eastside Elementary School's 2nd grade, focusing on native pollinator habitat enhancement and invasive species prevention. Students removed

approximately 60 lbs of invasive plants and spread 5 lbs of native seeds across approximately one acre. Separately, Bethany is spearheading the Wild Seed Initiative, providing "Livingston Loves Bees" seed packs to residents and seed bomb outreach. These packs contain a mix of native wildflowers ideal for pollinators: Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*), Plain Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Western Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), and Indian Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*). The program encourages residents to plant in boulevards and front yards, monitor their plantings, and help determine the best seed mix for Livingston.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

206

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

2





Livingston Bee City Committee Member Clay Bolt with one of the city's two Bee City USA Street Signs.

Policies & Practices

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

The Bee City Committee has begun conversations with the City of Livingston to encourage pollinator-friendly pest management. One of our initial targets and key discussion points has been to encourage the county to stop spraying for mosquitoes on the city / county boundary in town. There is a high-degree of resident opposition to the spraying, which we plan to work with the city to build upon.

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.

During our webinars we are sharing the harm that pesticides pose for pollinators and people. This is a message that will be emphasized during the 2025 growing season.

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

Not currently.

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

Bethany co-hosted two free outreach events with the Park County Cooperative Weed Management Area and MSU Extension, educating landowners and pesticide applicators across the county about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Weed Management (IWM) planning using EDDMapS and monitoring resources, with a focus on invasive plant species.

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

- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Even in a small city, change takes time.

Committee Photo



Livingston Bee City Committee Members: Clay Bolt, Bethany Allen, and Michelle Toshack

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-rocky-mountains>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/native-plant-nursery-and-seed-directory>

<http://www.livingstonmontana.org>

<https://instagram.com/LivingstonLovesBees>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572928002002>