

# Bee City USA - Louisville

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 City of Louisville Horticulture and Streetscapes team worked on many pollinator habitat enhancement projects in 2024 with the support of the Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board. These projects were hosted by the committee as staff members doing the work are on the committee and the committee also strongly supported these projects. Two of the projects were landscape beds that were planted with pollinator friendly and xeric plants. Another project was the removal of junipers in two landscape beds and the juniper was replaced with pollinator friendly plants. Enhancements included converting three sections of median spaces from irrigated turfgrass to a native grass mix with flowers, shrubs, and trees; establishing pollinator-focused perennial beds in all park landscape areas; and creating dedicated planting beds integrated with art projects. On the City's open spaces, siberian elms (invasive) were removed and the area was reseeded with a native mix. The City also utilizes restorative goat and cattle grazing, totaling 280.04 acres grazed since 2023. Two pocket prairies were also installed on open spaces that were specifically planted with ecotone-specific pollinator species, with a primary focus on forbs and native pollinator plants.

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

27

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

200

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

10

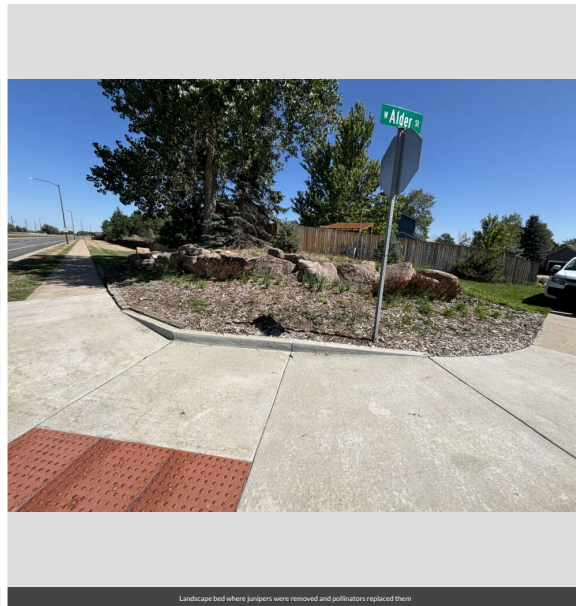
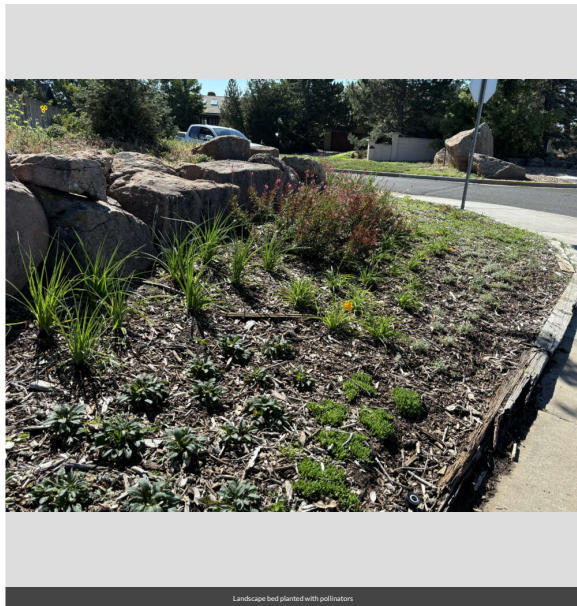
*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

13379959

*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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Landscape bed planted with pollinators

Landscape bed where jumpers were removed and pollinators replaced them

## Education & Outreach

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

A myriad of different events were hosted or co-hosted by Bee City, such as the children's art contest, seed swap event, bioblitz, as well as quite a few speakers that presented on various topics. A pollinator mural was also painted onto the street in front of City Hall. Bee City also partners with a couple of other municipalities to help host "Ecotoberfest". The City partners with Resource Central for the "garden in a box" program to promote shaded pollinator planting and turf grass conversion.

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

How many people attended those events (in total)?

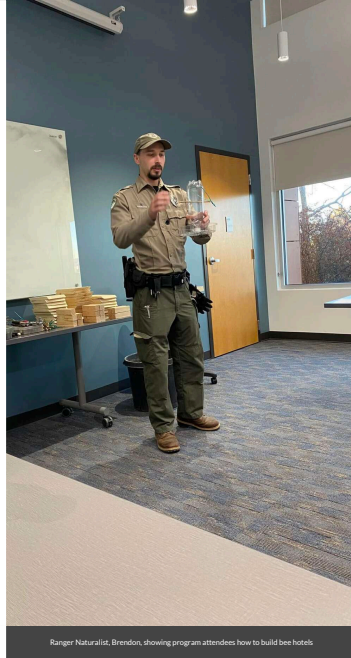
5000

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

5



Mural painted on street in front of City Hall to commemorate the City's Bee City designation



Ranger Naturalist, Brendon, showing program attendees how to build bee hotels



Three Speaker Presentations on Introduction to Pollinators (Amy Yarger, Horticulturist at Butterfly Pavilion, Westminster, CO), Creating a Pollinator Garden (Michaela Truslow, CSU Extension, Ft. Collins, Colorado) and Creating Pollinator Safe Environments (Don Murray, Colorado People and Pollinators Action Network)



Have not installed a street sign yet - planning to in 2025. Photo of Bee City booth at Ecotoberfest.

## Policies & Practices

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

The City of Louisville has continued to minimize its use of pesticides. Pesticides are only used as a last resort and are no longer used to maintain aesthetics. The products the City does use are organic and non-neonicotinoids. The City passed an ordinance in 2019 to discontinue the use of Glyphosate and 2,4-D containing products.

*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.*

The City of Louisville passed an ordinance in 2019 to discontinue the use of Glyphosate and 2,4-D containing products.

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

**Not yet.**

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

Yes, we attended the IPM Toolkit Webinar hosted by Bee City USA and Xerces Society, as well as staff attended conferences regarding this topic, such as ProGreen and Rocky Mountain Regional Turf Association, and events hosted by the Denver Botanical Gardens.



Volunteers helping pull noxious weeds on open space

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

n/a

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Committee Photo



Committee members walking in the Labor Day Parade (won first prize)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Weed Management Plan 2020.pdf](https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/integrated-weed-management-plan)

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/integrated-weed-management-plan>

Recommended Native Plant List: [2023 shrub-perennial list.xls](https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/41522/638470364597570000)

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/41522/638470364597570000>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [FrontRangeSm.pdf](https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/?target=publications#native)

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/?target=publications#native>

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/parks-division/bee-city>

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