

Bee City USA - Phoenix

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.

Our Pollinator Garden Certification Program directly impacts the promotion of pollinator habitats. We also distribute literature, pamphlets, flyers, and conduct children's activities at all our events and fundraisers that educate the public to take eco-friendly actions in their daily lives. And we are the sponsors, along with the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and the City of Phoenix for hosting Earth Day 2025 which makes this our 3rd year in a row. Our pollinator habitat projects include the following which have been described in the Essay section of this report: Blue Heron Community Garden – ongoing Bee City USA Phoenix Pollinator Garden – ongoing Bee City USA Phoenix Residential and Business Pollinator Gardens – ongoing Bear Creek Stewards Spring and Fall Clean-ups (Spring and Fall) – ongoing

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

4

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

1000

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

18

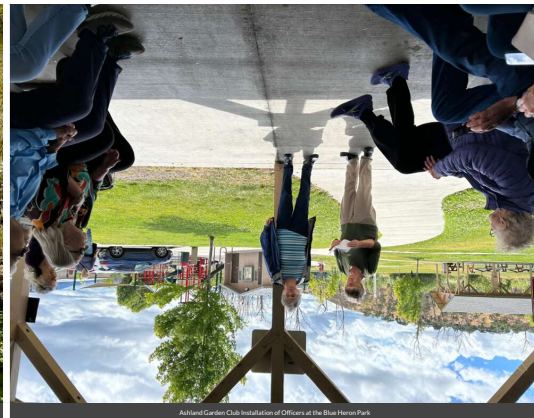
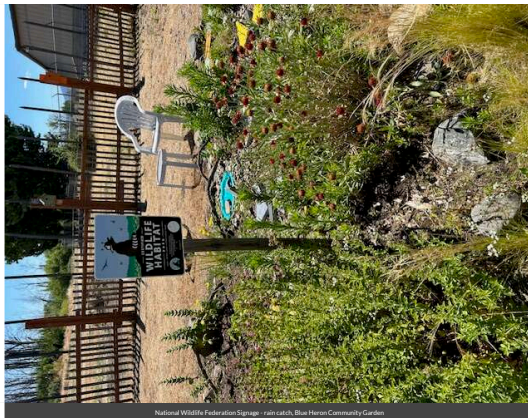
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

3800

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
- 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 tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Education & Outreach

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

(1) Earth Day 2024 (host) In partnership with the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and the City of Phoenix, Bee City USA Phoenix sponsored a public event to celebrate Earth Day on April 20th 2024 at the Blue Heron Park. A local worm farmer headlined the event with a demonstration of his flock of homing doves and then concluded his presentation to the attendees with a "release of the doves". We had local garden clubs, nurseries, and the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association selling native plants and teaching the public what type of plants grow in southern Oregon that benefit pollinators. A number of local businesses and non-profits also presented educational activities to children to teach them about environmental practices that will help slow down the negative impact of climate change on plants, animals, and humans. Our local library brought the mobile DART (Direct Access to Resources and Technology) van which provides access to resources and technology for Jackson County residents unable to visit a library branch. The DART Van is equipped with ten laptops that patrons can check out for onsite use, while the van itself is a wi-fi hotspot, with a 300-foot radius of coverage. As a community-oriented service, DART also offers skill-building workshops to help library patrons better connect with online resources and gain greater comfort with technology. DART supports the

vision of Jackson County Library System by increasing access to computers and wifi, thereby connecting patrons with information, ideas, and each other. This year, on April 19th, 2025 Bee City USA Phoenix will again host Earth Day at the Blue Heron Park. We will feature an e-car drive around town and e-bike drive along the Bear Creek Greenway sponsored by Pacific Power to inform the public of what clean energy initiatives they can offer for transportation and electrification (“the process of replacing fossil fuels with electricity”). In the morning of the celebration, the Bear Creek Stewards host their annual Spring clean-up along bear creek, from Ashland to Central Point, a total of 16 locations. We always have volunteers help out at the Blue Heron Park location and then we host the Earth Day event in the afternoon. (2) Blue Heron Community Garden and Bee City USA Pollinator Garden (host) Two ongoing projects we support are the Bee City USA Phoenix Pollinator Garden at Blue Heron Park and the Blue Heron Community Garden. In October 2023 we planted twenty-two Klamath-Siskiyou pollinator habitat plants awarded to us by the Xerces Society. This year we are seeing them thrive and many milkweed seeds spread, pollinated by the the wind. One of our City of Phoenix Blue Heron Park sponsors, the Bear Creek Valley Rotary Club, will soon be installing a “Peace Pole” at the Bee City Pollinator Garden. The garden is maintained as an in-kind donation made by This Seasons Colors, a landscaping company located in Ashland Oregon. The LDS missionaries also volunteer and assist in maintaining both the community garden and the pollinator garden. (3) Pollinator Garden Certification Program (host) Bee City USA Phoenix also has a great local program for certifying pollinator gardens (both residential and business) in the Phoenix area. Spearheading the program in 2024 is a senior girl scout and gold award candidate from Troop 10267, Cecelia Wakefield, and a local Master Gardener. The certification signs we provide spread education and awareness to the community in support of our pollinator friends. Our signage was donated by the Bear Creek Valley Rotary Club. A fillable garden certification application form is available on the Cascade Girl website at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPUMML5bI2FGqQeKNm9_PNS5Nq8LpHNpnx9Hx94aucsyd50Q/viewform And the Bee City USA Phoenix Facebook page: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-RCnbLH6SSKEzKizCdi8BSpqCkt3Lj7OvhZZUITNdXo/edit?fbclid=IwY2xjawlgiFIeHRuA2FibQlxMAABHT1NG3yF4uj9yp6d5RcJRf6M-oTkrDI6c8WbyG1JhK0GxLXO94gpL5eqfg_aem_HxEaRBOMtTGGDq3D_7cZbg (4) Almeda Fire Recovery (support) You may know that on September 8, 2020 the City of Phoenix experienced a devastating wildfire that destroyed not only homes but much of the wildlife habitats and wildlife in our area. The Promise Tree Project The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc is working to provide replacement trees to victims of Oregon’s 2020 wildfire losses. In the Fall of 2020, it seemed like Oregon was on fire. More than 4000 families lost their homes, their memories, and their neighborhoods. The members of the OSFGC wanted to do more than help with the initial needs. They wanted to give homeowners who are rebuilding a Tree. The City of Phoenix is promoting this initiative on their website that provides a voucher for a free tree or shrub. Additionally, as part of the Fresh Water Trust Fuel Reduction Project along the Greenway impacted by the Almeda Wildfire in 2020, a contractor has been actively working to eliminate the blackberry bushes which literally fueled the wildfire. The habitat restoration is bringing back native bird nesting sites, including those for owls. (5) Phoenix Wetland Natural Area (support) The City of Phoenix held a citizen workshop which is part of the Phoenix Parks Master Plan Forum, conducted by the Institute for Policy Research and Engagement, School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, University of Oregon. The City of Phoenix has hired the group as a

contractor to implement a restoration project of the wetlands located behind the Civic Center right in the middle of down town Phoenix. Residents were invited to provide input on what features should be incorporated into the recovery and enhancement of these wetlands areas. (6) Blue Heron Community Garden Children's Garden and Education Center (host) We are honored to be partnered with two non-profit organizations, Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley and Blackberry Academy, to develop a Children's Garden and Outdoor Education Center at the Blue Heron Community Garden. In 2024 we conducted on-site preliminary planning sessions to make this happen by the Spring of 2025. During the Fall and Winter of 2024 preliminary meetings and site visits took place at the community garden. These planning sessions included designing the landscaping layout of the area designated for the Children's Pollinator Garden and the outdoor Education Center. In addition, with the City of Phoenix's Executive Director, Department for the City's Community and Economic Development, the City Manager, and the Public Works Supervisor, these two non-profits discussed their project goals and implementation plans. The two organizations made a presentation to the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Committee in February 2025 and then will make one to the Phoenix City Council in March to request approval of the project which is a "change of use" for the community garden property. At this time we have community garden plots for growing vegetables and flowers, a pollinator garden, a blueberry memorial garden, the Ashland Garden Club flower garden, and a bioswale, but we do not conduct any education programs at the garden. 1) Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley (from their website): Pollinator Project Rogue Valley is a volunteer-led Oregon-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit concerned about the health of our native pollinators and plant communities. Working together, we can save our pollinators. We envision communities and landscapes working together, supporting diverse ecosystems rich with native plants and thriving native pollinators. We inspire, engage, and educate about the ecological importance of native pollinator species and the diverse native plant communities essential for their survival – and ours. We are committed to the creation and restoration of pesticide-free pollinator corridors throughout the Rogue Valley. 2) Blackberry Academy (from their website) Blackberry Academy a Wild approach to Pre-K Our Nature School Philosophy At Blackberry Academy Outdoor Preschool, we believe in a play-based and place-based approach that seamlessly integrates with the natural world. Our philosophy centers on fostering children's innate curiosity and allowing them to thrive both cognitively and emotionally. Play-Based Learning: Our curriculum encourages children to be intrepid explorers of the great outdoors. Whether rain or shine, the elements become a canvas for their imagination and learning. We champion the idea that children possess an intrinsic ability to learn autonomously. By viewing them as competent and capable, we create an environment where the children's creativity truly shines. Place-Based Education: Our sanctuary of learning extends beyond traditional walls. We have a plot in the community garden where children actively participate in growing food, tending to flowers, and learning about composting. Our home base is the beautiful Blue Heron Park in Phoenix, Oregon. Nestled within the "Miracle Mile" along the Bear Creek Greenway, this park boasts natural wetlands, 16 cold water springs, blue herons, acorn woodpeckers, pollinator gardens, and multiple nature discovery zones. Desert willows provide perfect climbing trees for our young adventurers. (6) Bee City USA Phoenix hosted and/or participated in a total of 27 (this total includes 15 pollinator garden certification) events/outreach projects in 2024. 1) Earth Day 2024 at the Blue Heron Park, Phoenix Oregon 2) Girl Scout Troop 10267 – Pollinator Garden Certification Program (15 residential certifications) 3) Bees of Summer Fund Raiser – sponsored by Figaro's Pizza 4) Ashland Garden Club Meeting,

Community Garden Tour and Pollinator Garden Planting 5) Phoenix Flower Festival at The Grange 6) Christmas Bazaar at The Grange 7) Tree Lighting at City Hall, hosted by the City of Phoenix and 1st Phoenix Community Center 8) Phoenix Wetland Natural Area WorkShop – hosted by the City of Phoenix Parks Master Plan Forum, Institute for Policy Research and Engagement, School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, University of Oregon 9) Fresh Water Trust Fuel Reduction Project seminar (along the Greenway impacted by the Almeda Wildfire in 2020) 10) Talent Garden Club Plant Sale 11) Bear Creek Stewards Spring and Fall Clean-ups at the Blue Heron Park 12) Registered as a USDA People's Garden

<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/initiatives-and-highlighted-programs/peoples-garden> 13) Phoenix Library Pollinator Garden and Demonstration Bee Hive Seminar Bee City USA Phoenix facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Bee-City-USA-Phoenix-Oregon-100066370608659/> Website

https://www.cascadegirl.org/beecityusa-phoenix?fbclid=IwY2xjawlgWkRleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHfZgC-egwS4juNnV0LgDyGX_uq7QIOYhTRwnP6d2wphIPdnrGHdVeHCTPA_aem_zP3gqPDdTnmiiRfB_Vqcw Website Pollinator Garden Certification Form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPUMML5bI2FGqQeKNm9_PNS5Nq8LpHNpnx9Hx94aucsyd50Q/vie wform Facebook Pollinator Garden Certification Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-RCnbLH6SSKEzKizCdi8BSpqCkt3Lj7OvhZZUITNdXo/edit?fbclid=IwY2xjawloR2xleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHX54VWi9g5MKPslUU0xXLG8rCr9poeX6Z0Z4bXcdy68PKi4KdHNd86-V8Q_aem_Co91A1BdUEZrsTDpVrvYNQ

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

27

How many people attended those events (in total)?

10000

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

3



Release of the Doves - Earth Day 2024



Flyer - Earth Day 2024



Flyer - Bear Creek Stewards and Bee City USA 2025

Policies & Practices

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

Our Pollinator Garden Certification Program directly impacts the promotion of pollinator safe pest management. We follow the guidelines outlined in the City of Phoenix Integrated Pest Management Plan (May 18, 2020).

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 Phoenix Public Works Dept. ensures that minimal spraying is used at all three of our parks and actually hand-pulls many of the weeds in the parks (particularly near playground areas, the Community Garden, the Bee City USA Phoenix Pollinator Garden, the Bear Creek Greenway Phoenix, as well as the park entrances and exits. The Department also maintains the City's wetlands areas to control invasive species, such as Blackberries. The Rogue River Watershed Council maintains the Bear Creek Greenway and the Bear Creek Stewards sponsor an annual clean-up day at a number of locations all along the Greenway in both the Spring and Fall.

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

These non-profits follow strict national guidelines (e.g., the Xerces Society): Kristina Pollinator Project of the Rogue Valley Save the Phoenix Wetlands Rogue River Keepers Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates The City of Phoenix Parks Master Plan is focused on recovering the wetlands behind the Civic Center and the Bear Creek Miracle Mile. The

Bear Creek Greenway's "Miracle Mile" is a stretch of the Bear Creek Greenway in Phoenix, Oregon. The area is known for its springs and seeps that provide cold water to Bear Creek. The cold water benefits fish and other wildlife. Policy initiatives along the Greenway supported by the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation: Blue Heron Park: A park with wetlands, springs, and nature discovery zones? Springs: The springs provide constant cool water to the creeks, especially during the hot summer months? Cold water: The cold water benefits fish, such as steelhead and coho salmon? The Bear Creek Greenway has community parks with playgrounds, restrooms, and drinking water The Greenway also provides access to restaurants, coffee shops, and bike shops The Bear Creek Greenway Foundation can be contacted at PO Box 4561, Medford, OR 97501 Jackson County Parks can be contacted at (541) 774-8183 The City of Phoenix can be contacted at (541) 535-1995

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

The City of Phoenix Integrated Pest Management Plan was approved on May 18, 2020. We adhere to the tenants of the plan when we certify residential and business pollinator gardens, as well as at the Blue Heron Park Community Garden and the Bee City USA Phoenix Pollinator Garden.



Bee City USA Phoenix logo

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
not at this time

Committee Photo



Cecilia and Jessica Wakefield, Sandy Wine (pictured above - holding USDA People's Garden sign at Phoenix City Council Meeting)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM Plan May 18 2020.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Pages/PollinatorIssues.aspx>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/SierranSteppe.rx3.pdf>

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