

Bee City USA - Ponca City

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.

We have three projects in our town that cover five acres total. Staff for Parks & Rec take care of all three plots. The first and oldest plot is a 100 ft x 100 ft lot located at our lake. It was first created by the Cherokee Strip Quail and Pheasant Forever organization in 2020. They were looking to create safe spaces for quail and pheasants along with a habitat for pollinators. The second plot is across from our local airports landing strip. Staff had to remove roughly four and a half acres of trees due to laws concerning runway flight paths. Staff had decided to make a pollinator plot instead of planting grass that would need to be mowed every two weeks. The third plot is located in at Redbud Park along the loop of a walking trail next to an elementary school. The park is mainly used for sports practices and had an old playground that needed to be removed. Instead of replacing the playground, since the school already had one in good shape, we decided to replace it was a pollinator plot.

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?

24

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

3

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

217800

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow

Education & Outreach

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

Ponca City Parks & Rec co-hosted the local Earth Day event and handed out trees and six packs of plants to the community. We collaborate with Environmental Services department every year for Earth Day. Parks & Rec also collaborates with the local domestic violence shelter to host the annual Herb Festival. Staff had meetings with the local Master Gardeners group to discuss Bee City and how we can do our part in planting city areas. Staff also host walking tours and disseminate tree maps at LA Cann Botanical Gardens.

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

4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

2500

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

4





Bee City sign as you come into Ponca City, OK. Photo taken by Katrina Warrior

Policies & Practices

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

Parks & Rec staff discussed ways to prevent infestations in all areas of planting to reduce pesticide use and will implement them this spring and summer. Staff have decided to complete each bed for planting before starting another bed to prevent unwanted growth and less chemical use. All beds will be de-weeded, planted, pre-emergent, and mulch before moving on to the next bed.

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.

Not at this time.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
Staff are in works with city code enforcement to create a policy for authorized pollinator plots for private residences.

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

No

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

N/A

Committee Photo

Learn More

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

<https://www.poncacityok.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15628/Integrated-Pest-Management-Plan>

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

<https://www.poncacityok.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15432/Recomended-Native-Plant-list>

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

<https://www.poncacityok.gov/752/Bee-City-USA>

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