

Bee City USA - Sammamish

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 Sammamish has a well-established restoration program with both steward led, and city led restoration events occurring throughout the year. In 2024, the city and its stewards continued to manage and enhance its various restoration sites in parks and in stormwater ponds. Efforts at all these sites are focused on removal of invasive species and planting of native plants, many of which also benefit local pollinators. Pollinator Habitat Project Highlights: 1. Evan's Meadow First Year – In late 2023, we identified and started working on a new pollinator site with the eventual goal of establishing a large, diverse wildflower meadow. Over the course of 2024, we hosted several volunteer events to clear invasive blackberry and reed canary grass and prepare the initial 400 sq ft area for planting. By fall 2024, we had cleared and expanded the initial 400 sq ft area to 900 sq ft and installed 147 native, pollinator friendly plants. In addition to planting the initial area, we also worked towards preparing additional areas for future expansion of the site. In October of 2024 we brought in a contractor to mow down an approximately 15,000 sq ft area consisting of primarily blackberry and had volunteers prep and cover the next area slated to be solarized in summer 2025. 2. Big Rock Park Central (Year 3) & Lower Commons (Year 2) Pollinator Habitats- With the help of our stewards, we continue to maintain our other pollinator sites. In 2024 stewards visited the site often to remove weeds, salvage plants for use at other sites and collect seeds for seeding and propagation. The site also continues to serve as an educational site during our Pollinator Talks. 3. Big Rock Park South Pollinator Panel Project – In 2024, a newly acquired park property was set to open to the public, however some parts of the park are to remain closed until after construction in those areas is completed. In late 2023 staff on the bee city committee coordinated with the parks planning team and maintenance department to have Sammamish community members paint panels and install them on the fence surrounding the construction area as part of a community wide art project. The theme for the panels is “pollinators” and is expected to be an ongoing community art project for the foreseeable future. So far, the community has submitted over 300 panels. Community members can view the panels by visiting Big Rock Park South and can scan a QR code to submit their own.

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

8

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

1012

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

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

- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Other



Sammamish volunteer planting native wildflowers & grasses at Evan's Creek Preserve (Francine Sanchez)



Sammamish volunteers clearing noxious weeds at Evan's meadow site (Francine Sanchez)

Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, the Bee City Committee members planned out and hosted 2 pollinator talks, 4 pollinator pop-ups, 5 bee city volunteer events and a movie showing of "My garden of a thousand bees". Pollinator talks were hosted by one of our stewards who shared valuable information on native pollinator plants including benefits of specific plants, how to harvest seeds and how to propagate. Several Bee City Committee members including staff and stewards shared pollinator information at pop-up booths in parks and at the local farmer's market. At these events we engaged the public by sharing plant lists, sharing our new "5 things Pollinators Need/5 Things you can do" info sheet, demonstrating pollination and highlighting the connection between bees and crop pollination with kid-friendly activities. Additionally in June, the city proclaimed the week of June 17th -23rd as Pollinator Week.

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

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

150

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

6



Policies & Practices

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

In 2024, the Public Works Department, Streets division installed “No spray signs” in rights-of-way (ROW) throughout the city where they intersect with sensitive areas. Since management of ROW landscaped areas are contracted out to a landscape company, there were past instances of pesticide application near sensitive areas. To reduce such instances, these areas are now clearly marked as being no spray zones.

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 yet

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

We have an IPM Policy in place

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
 - 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)
 - Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
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Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [CM-15 Integrated Pest Management Policy November 2023.pdf](#)

<https://www.sammamish.us/projects/integrated-pest-management/>

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

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: