

Bee City USA - Seaside

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.

All of the existing habitats were enhanced and new planting areas were expanded at Farallones, Mescal-Neil, Beta and Capra parks for a total of 2,000SF of additional habitat. The RCD also had a habitat expansion project at the Monterey Adult School, located in Seaside, and increased the native plant habitat area by approximately 5,000SF.

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

11

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

20

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

11

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

2000

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

- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Native pollinator habitat in city park.



Mural at Havana Soliz park by Jess Salinas. Commissioned by FOSPA and Blue Zones Project.

Education & Outreach

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

Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., volunteers gather in Seaside parks for FOSPA-hosted workdays to enhance and expand pollinator habitats. These regular meet-ups are the foundation of our habitat restoration efforts, driven by a committed group of local stewards. The average attendance is 20 people at every workday. In addition to our weekly workdays, our partnership with the Blue Zones Project of Monterey County (BZP) continued in 2024, boosting the success of our native pollinator gardens. These special events brought an extra 8–15 volunteers to supplement the core FOSPA crew. BZP-collaborative workdays were held on: June 1st at Havana Soliz Park September 14th at Lincoln Cunningham Park November 16th at Havana Soliz Park On September 23rd, FOSPA welcomed approximately 70 students and teachers from the Stevenson School for a volunteer workday at Highland Otis Park. Together, they created berms, swales, and a new pathway through the pollinator garden. The group also spread wood chips, pruned native plants, pulled weeds, and scattered native seeds – leaving a lasting impact on the site. From January to May 2024, five 8th grade students from the International School of Monterey dedicated 15 hours each to caring for pollinator plants across nine FOSPA-maintained parks. Their involvement culminated in formal presentations at a school assembly, where they shared what they learned before graduating—an inspiring example of youth engagement in local ecology. On March 13th, FOSPA took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fernando Park, a project made possible through a grant written by FOSPA in partnership with the City of Seaside. We also hosted a small Earth Day celebration at Beta Park on April 20th, 2024, bringing community members together in appreciation of local green spaces and pollinator-friendly practices. FOSPA was featured in the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's Let's Go Outdoors bi-annual publication, distributed county-wide, which encouraged families to join our Saturday workdays. Our ongoing collaboration with the Green Cadre Program of Monterey County continued under the leadership of the Resource Conservation District (RCD). This partnership was highlighted during a volunteer event at Havana Soliz Park on November 25th, 2024, where work was guided by our dedicated park stewards.

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

65

How many people attended those events (in total)?

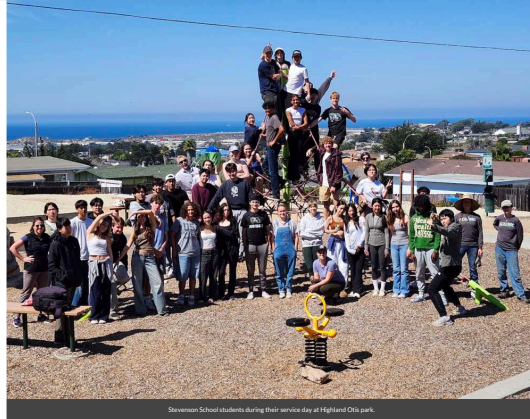
655

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

3



FOSP booth at California Wildlife Day



Stevenson School students during their service day at Highland Oaks park.



Mayor Ian Cagleby volunteering with International School students.



Policies & Practices

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

We continue to avoid the use of sprays and keep up on weeding through routine maintenance and mulching. Best practices are shared with all new volunteers. All work is done by "hand."

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.

No, but could be an effort by the city's Environmental Commission.

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

No.

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

New volunteers are informed of our methods of pesticide-free maintenance.

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

- **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)**
- **Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds**
- **Dropped pesticide use altogether on city or campus grounds**
- **Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids**
- **Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)**

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

The power of community volunteers, consistency, and small actions to make larger change.

Committee Photo



Friends of Seaside Parks Association!

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Form Based Code.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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