

Bee City USA - Spearfish

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.

City Hall pollinator garden hosted by Bee City USA – Spearfish – 400 sq. ft. See above for information. St. Vincent pollinator garden partnered with Bee City USA – Spearfish – 200 sq. ft. An employee at St. Vincent de Paul thrift store (an aspiring Master Gardener) in downtown Spearfish contacted the city with the idea of replacing turf grass in the boulevard in front of the store with a pollinator garden. After getting approval for the planting plan and securing the necessary permissions, Parks staff helped prep the site for planting. The employee did the planting and Parks staff helped with maintenance watering throughout the growing season. Nevada Trailhead partnered with Bee City USA – Spearfish – 6,382 sq. ft. A volunteer member at the Senior Center attended one of our Committee meetings requesting information on how to start a pollinator garden on private property owned by the Senior Center. The property is adjacent to city-owned property where there is currently a trailhead to our network of multi-use trails. The Parks Department was able to set aside land on public property adjacent to the planting site on private property and designate it as a "no-mow" area. In addition, Parks staff were able to tie-in to the existing water system on public property to allow the Senior Center access to water while establishing the new plantings. Sue Bertsch clover planting hosted by Bee City USA – Spearfish – 18,313 sq. ft. In a small, pocket park (where a native plant pollinator garden had been planted several years prior), Parks staff overseeded a large area of existing turf grass with red and white micro clover. The clover came in well in 2024 and we are hoping that it becomes more well established in the coming years. Community Food Forest tree plantings hosted by Bee City USA – Spearfish Parks staff created a Community Food Forest in 2021 and have been adding fruit-bearing trees to the area every year. A couple of Ohio Buckeye trees were planted outside of the Food Forest to increase opportunities for pollinators, and the area inside the Food Forest was overseeded with red and white micro clover.

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?

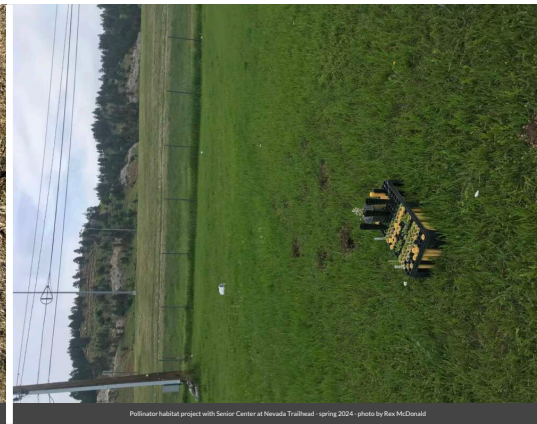
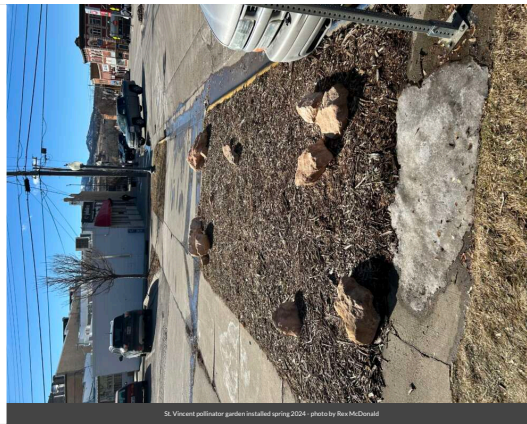
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How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

25295

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Education & Outreach

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

Native Plant Sale hosted by Beautify Spearfish – approx. 100 attendees Kelly Harnett, Founder of Beautify Spearfish and Bee City Committee member, hosted her second annual Native Plant Sale in partnership with SDSU Extension office. The event is free and open to the public and includes presentations by three speakers as well as the opportunity for the public to purchase plants native to the Black Hills from SDSU Extension. Kelly also had a table with information about our Bee City program including our Northern Hills Native Plant list and upcoming community events we hosted last year. Native plant planting class hosted by Bee City USA – Spearfish – approx. 30 attendees This was a class put on by employees of the Parks Department who are also members of our Bee City Committee. An existing landscaped area outside of City Hall was in need of being redone, so the Parks Department offered to create a pollinator garden in that space. The planting plan was created by two Northern Hills Master Gardeners, who also serve as Bee City Committee members. We decided to make this a "Native plant planting class" and invited the public to join in the planting and also to learn about how to create a pollinator garden. There were about 30 people in attendance, including the Mayor. A sign including a QR code link to our Bee City webpage was installed in the garden. The garden, in it's highly trafficked location, will serve as a focal point for the city's dedication to creating habitat for native pollinators. Seed collection

class hosted by Bee City USA – Spearfish – approx. 20 attendees In the fall of 2024, the Parks Department partnered with local farmers to discuss techniques for harvesting native plant seeds. The class was held at a pollinator garden in one of our local parks that had been planted a few years ago and was open to the public. There were about 15 attendees and information regarding native seed propagation is available on our Bee City webpage. Earth Day event hosted by BHSU – approx. 200 attendees Black Hills State University hosted an Earth Day event on campus in April of 2024. A member of our Bee City Committee volunteered to operate the Bee City information booth and handed out copies of our Northern Hills Native Plant list to members of the public.

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

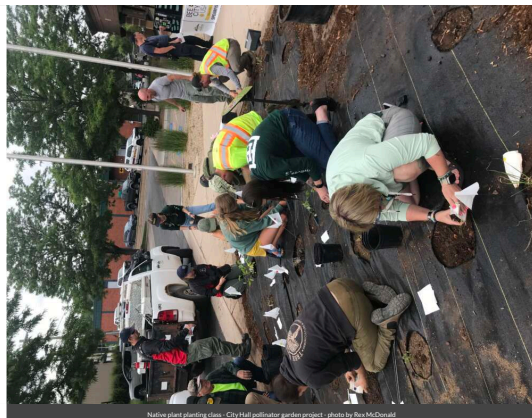
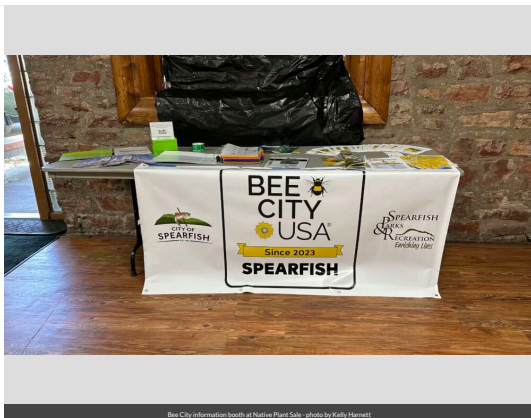
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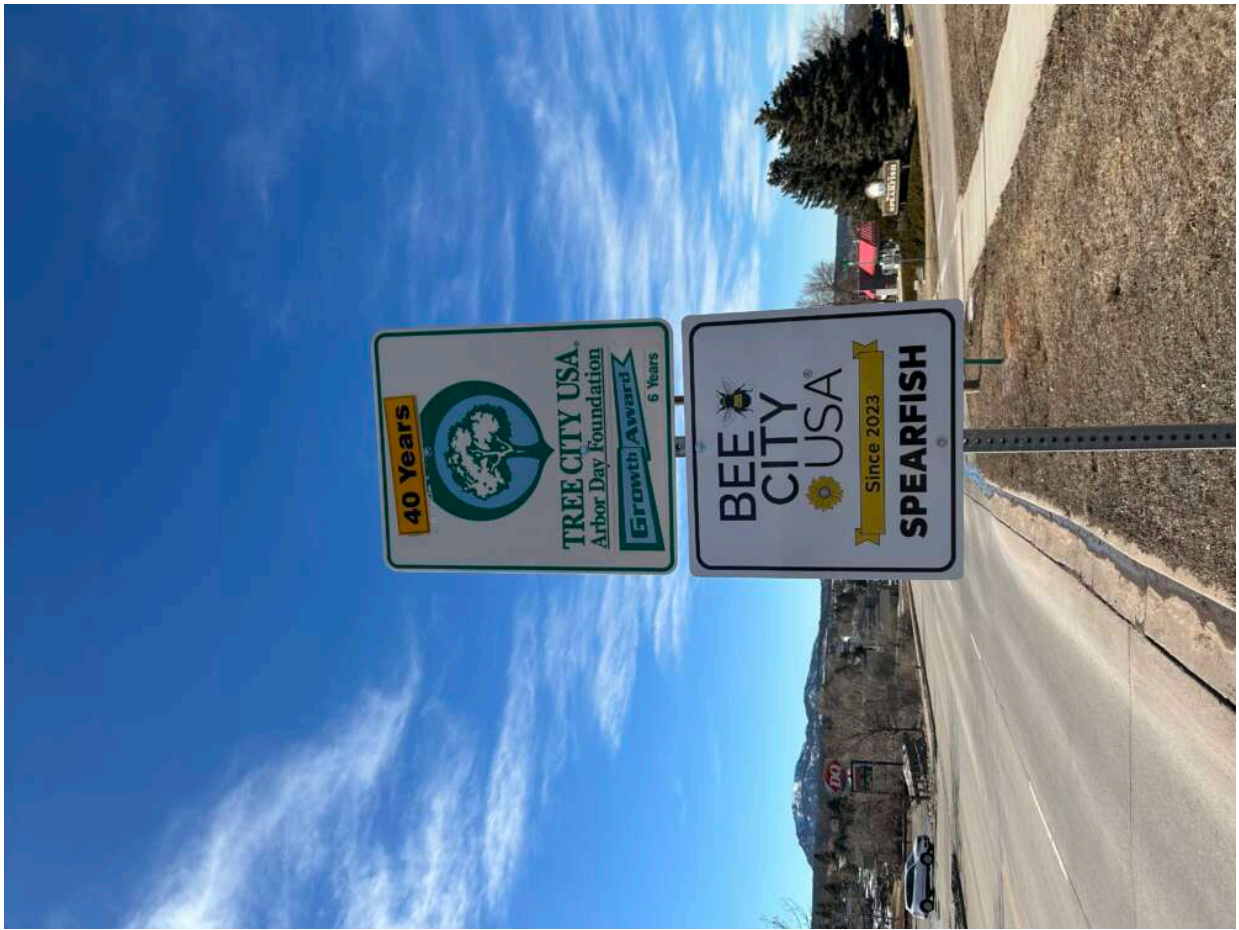
How many people attended those events (in total)?

350

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

3





2'x3' street sign at one of three locations around town - photo by Rex McDonald

Policies & Practices

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

Created IPM for Parks Department This document was created in February of 2025 and will serve as an internal document with general guidelines for Parks operations. It outlines our current practices and will be a living document that may be subject to change in the future, as necessary. It includes the city-wide chemical Weed Control contract to show how chemical applications are currently contracted out on public property. Reduced chemical broadleaf weed controls on city-owned property In the last 5 years, the Parks Department has reduced it's chemical footprint by at least half by discontinuing the practice of broadleaf weed spraying in our parks. Currently, broadleaf chemical weed control is limited to our athletic playing fields, a small outdoor venue used for weddings and with Veterans Memorials, and one park that has a particularly bad thistle problem. The rest of the properties managed by Parks have gone to "spot spray" applications for noxious weeds only. No Mow areas on city-owned property Parks staff identified several areas on public property where no-mow practices were put into place. These areas were determined because they had

little-to-no foot traffic or specified use. There were also areas in the riparian zone along Spearfish Creek that were designated no-mow to help with bank stabilization and habitat creation along the creek.

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.

n/a

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

n/a

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

Some Committee members attended the IPM toolkit webinar hosted by Xerces in 2024.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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)
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Dropped pesticide use altogether on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use



Incorporating pollinator-friendly plantings in annual planting plan - bumble bee on newly planted Ohio Buckeye in spring 2024 - photo by Rex McDonald

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Many of the things we did in 2024 took minimal time and effort away from our daily operations. With the guidance provided by Xerces, we were able to make small changes operationally that made a big difference in our community. Support internally across several city departments, as well as support from the public, has allowed our program to grow and new ideas to be brought forward and discussed. Additionally, we are currently working on a grazing lease for cattle on city-owned property. To ensure that pollinators were taken into consideration during the writing of the lease, we were put into contact with a Range Management Specialist from Xerces. His expertise and guidance helped us while drafting the new terms for the lease.

Committee Photo



Committee member leading the instruction of the native plant planting class - June 2024 - photo by Rex McDonald

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM -- February 2025 -- FINAL.docx](#)

<https://www.spearfish.gov/857/Bee-City-USA>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Northern Hills native plant list.docx](#)

<https://www.spearfish.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3824/Northern-Hills-native-plant-list>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Northern Hills native plants Vendor List.docx](#)

<https://www.spearfish.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4164/Northern-Hills-native-plants-Vendor-List>

<https://www.spearfish.gov/857/Bee-City-USA>

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