

Bee City USA - Talent

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.

More native plants were added to the existing 10 City Pollinator Gardens, a new habitat was established in conjunction with the Talent Maker City's new premises. (2/3 of the land belongs to the TMC and the rest to the City). This project was generously awarded three Pollinator Kits from Xerces, comprising of 150 native pollinator plants and 150 native grasses. The kits were distributed on Oct. 9 and on October 10 were promptly planted. That morning we sat out to place all the pollinator plants in the requisite areas (according to sunlight, shade requirements, space). Then later that morning a group of 50 middle school children arrived and under the guidance of experienced gardeners planted the 150 pollinator plants. The soil was well prepared beforehand and a drip system had been installed. Some of the plants were added to the prior newly established bioswale. Because of already existing narrow leaf milkweed plants (both on the TMC as well as City grounds) we added the milkweeds from the kits and were able to create 2 now officially certified Milkweed Stations. The 150 grasses were added within 3 days of the original planting and everything is thriving. Once the weather becomes more spring-like, we will have a celebration whereby the new habitats will be officially certified by our Bee City affiliate.

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

3

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

2

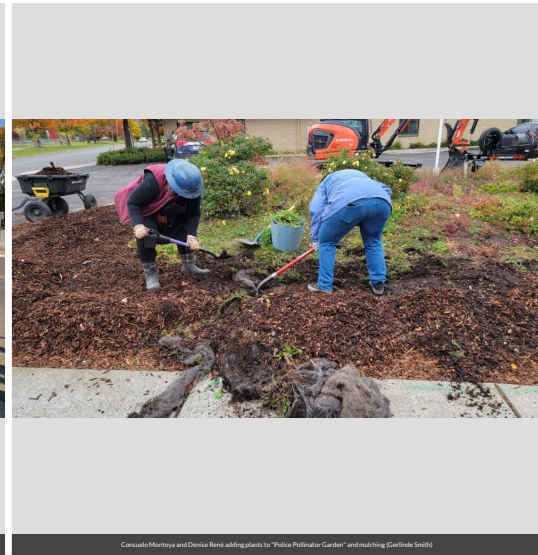
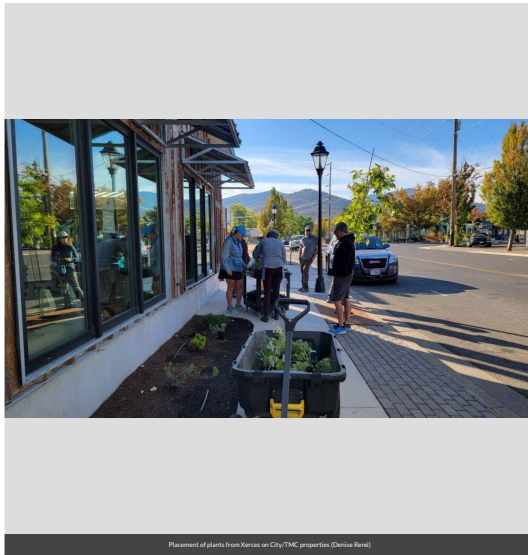
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

20000

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- 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



Placement of plants from Xerces on City/TMC properties (Denise Renel)

Consuelo Montoya and Denise Renel adding plants to "Pollinator Garden" and mulching (Caroline Smith)

Education & Outreach

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

We took part of the restoration of our main waterway, Bear Creek, under the guidance of the Rogue River Watershed Council and other environmental organizations. Invasive plant species (e.g. blackberries) were removed and replaced with native shrubs, trees and plant species. Vital tree snags were left and logs strategically placed in the river to create a habitat for beavers which have returned, as well as western pond turtles. There are many pollinator plants along the waterway. We have observed an increase in many native pollinators and bird species. This area is also a nesting habitat for many birds. We certified 6 new pollinator garden which brings our total to 88. In October our Community Center was for the second year the staging place for the Xerces Society's distribution of the Pollinator Kits for Southern Oregon. We welcomed Michele Blackburn and Corin Pease (both from Xerces) and together with staff members of the Talent Maker City helped to unload the massive amount of plants. These were subsequently organised into the various kits and picked up by many happy recipients.

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

9

How many people attended those events (in total)?

200

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

3



Blair Creek Restoration (Garfinkel Smith)



Talent Garden Club's Plant Sale, native plants from Klamath Siskiyou Native Seeds (Garfinkel Smith)



Certification of Talent's 84th Pollinator Garden with Steve and Rachel Parks and Garfinkel/ my neighbors (Garfinkel Smith)



Talent's Street Signs (Gerlinde Smith)

Policies & Practices

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

Since 2018, our city has had an IPM program in place. Many of our residents have been hand weeding and on occasions used steamers. Mulching has also been a great boon in mitigating emerging weeds.

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.

We are continuously educating the public on the importance of the dangers of pesticide use and recommend elimination/reduction. This is done through our Talent Garden Club (all our current Bee City Talent members are also members of the TGC) and Talent Maker City in their outreach programs.

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

Since becoming the second Bee City in the USA, there is a continual effort to educate the public about the importance

of pollinator habitats. This is also done through the Talent Garden Club and FB pages (Talent Garden Club and Talent Pollinator Garden Challenge).

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
We maintain the existing, from us created 10 City Pollinator Gardens, on a weekly basis. During that time many of our community members stop and ask questions about our work. This is a good educational opportunity since they see a "live example". We also educate through our monthly TGC meetings and various other lectures within the Rogue Valley.



Harvest Festival - display of Bee City Talent brochures, guidelines for establishing a healthy pollinator habitat.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

In order to be effective, our affiliate has benefitted through our increased membership/volunteers who are all well versed in organic land stewardship and the creation of pollinator habitats.

Committee Photo



Some of our Bee City Affiliate Members (Gerlinde Smith)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator-Friendly Native Shrubs, Flowers of Southern Oregon - Google Docs \(1\).pdf](#)

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

<https://roguevalleynursery.com/%20%20https://klamathskiyouseeds.com/%20%20https://www.plantoregon.com/%20%20https://cornucopiaacres.com/>

gardenintalent@gmail.com

<https://facebook.com/Talent%20Pollinator%20Garden%20Challenge>