

Bee City USA - Thousand Oaks

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.

This past year, the City enhanced local biodiversity and supported pollinator populations by distributing 1,280 pollinator plants to the public, encouraging their growth on both private property and throughout the community. In addition to these efforts, 100 oak trees were planted citywide to provide long-term habitat and essential nutrients for local pollinators. As part of this initiative, five oak trees were planted during a Girl Scout Tree Promise event held at the City Library, engaging youth in environmental stewardship and fostering a connection to urban forestry. These combined actions significantly contributed to increasing pollinator habitat and promoting ecological diversity within the City.

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

1

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

15

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

1

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

8000

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting

Education & Outreach

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

The City of Thousand Oaks hosted Arbor Earth Day 2024, featuring a booth that promoted Bee City USA initiatives and educated the community about their importance. Approximately 172,500 beneficial insects were distributed to reduce the need for insecticides in the city. Informative materials advocating for the use of mulch and woodchips as eco-friendly alternatives to herbicides in weed control practices were also distributed. Additionally, around 1,280 pollinator-friendly plants were provided, selected for their support of local ecosystems by offering habitat and food sources for bees and other pollinators. Educational sessions and interactive displays highlighted the benefits of these plants, focusing on their role in promoting biodiversity and enhancing the natural environment. The event aimed to encourage residents to contribute to a more pollinator-friendly environment for future generations.

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

1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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

8



Policies & Practices

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

The City has incorporated pollinator awareness into its staff training programs and follows Bee City USA standards when applying pesticides. This approach ensures that all pesticide use is carefully managed to protect and preserve local pollinator populations.

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.

The City produced over 600 tons of woodchips, which were distributed to the public and utilized throughout the community as a natural ground cover to help reduce the need for pesticide applications.

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

Yes, the City is actively implementing policy initiatives to further protect pollinators, residents, and waterways from the impacts of pesticides. The City has integrated pollinator awareness into staff training and adheres to Bee City USA standards for all pesticide applications, ensuring that products are used responsibly and only when necessary. These efforts align with the City's commitment to sustainable practices that safeguard pollinator habitats, protect community health, and prevent pesticide runoff into local waterways.

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

The committee participated in continuing education focused on ecologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) planning. As part of this effort, staff received training that incorporates pollinator awareness and follows Bee City USA standards when applying pesticides. This training emphasizes the safe and responsible use of pest management methods that prioritize pollinator protection, reduce chemical reliance, and safeguard local waterways. The City also promotes natural alternatives by producing and distributing over 600 tons of woodchips for use as ground cover to suppress weeds, as well as incorporating the use of beneficial insects to naturally control pests and further reduce the need for insecticides.

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

N/A

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) _Thousand Oaks, CA.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Recommend Native Plant List -Forestry Master Plan 2017.pdf](#)

<https://devilmountainnursery.com/plant-catalog/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://turningpointfoundation.org/growingworks.html>