

Bee City USA - Westminster

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 Westminster had several habitat creation and enhancement projects in 2024. Throughout the year, Standley Lake Regional Park hosted 6 volunteer events in the Pollinator Garden. During all 6 events, new pollinator plants and seeds were put into the garden. Approximately 300 new plants and 1,000s of seeds all pollinator friendly were added. Within Westminster Open Space, 1,000s of sq. ft were enhanced for pollinators by removing invasive species, putting in 1,000s of native, pollinator friendly seeds, and planting 100s of a rare pollinator plant called "Colorado Butterfly Plant". Westminster public schools also did several projects that improved pollinator habitat. They seeded 100s of native grass and wildflower seeds and planted 70 native, pollinator friendly trees and wildflowers at Westminster Academy of International Studies and seeded 100s of wildflowers at Westminster High School.

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

14

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

144

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

9

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

36015912

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
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

- Other



This is a photo of Standley Lake volunteers planting native, pollinator friendly species in Standley Lake's Pollinator Garden (Photo Credit: Anne Gardetto)

Education & Outreach

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

Each year the City of Westminster offers various pollinator themed outreach activities to the community. In 2024, there were seven total pollinator themed events. The most popular events were Pollinator Celebration Week, Beekeeping 101 and World Migratory Bird Day – Protect Birds, Protect Insects. During Pollinator Celebration week, we had a day of pollinator crafts at the Irving Street Library, a table with pollinator facts and LIVE pollinators (moth and lady beetles) for a few hours at College Hill Library and a program called “Native Buzzers” where participants learned about different pollinators in Westminster and created native bee homes. A few weeks later, we had a program called “Beekeeping 101”. The program was done by members of the Westminster bee club. They taught participants how to do proper beekeeping that doesn’t affect native bee species and gave out local honey! In October, Standley Lake Regional Park and Majestic View Nature Center hosted World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD). The theme of WMBD was “Protect Insects, Protect Birds.” Because of this theme, several of the booths at WMBD were related to protecting pollinators. We had partners such as the Butterfly Pavilion and the Colorado Pollinator Network join the program and talk to people about different ways to protect and conserve pollinators.

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

321

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

2



This is a photo from Jr Ranger Academy. The participants did a guided hike around Two Ponds where they learned various topics including topics about pollinators. After the hike, they got a chance to decorate flower pots and plant their own pollinator, friendly plant to take home. (Photo Credit: Susana Prieto Bravo)



Policies & Practices

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

We have created and maintained a written IPM plan that helps guide our decisions each year yielding to pollinator-friendly management decisions. We also implemented a non-chemical pest prevention and management method on city or campus grounds. Instead of chemicals, we have utilized the use of biocontrols. The biocontrols we use are Russian knapweed gall wasp (400 insects – released in Big Dry Creek Open Space (bull reservoir)), Dalmatian toadflax stem mining weevil (1,600 insects – released in Westminster Hills Open Space), diffuse knapweed/spotted knapweed root weevil (900 insects – released in Westminster Hills Open Space) bindweed banded gall mite(4,000 mites – released in Westminster Hills Open Space), musk thistle rosette weevil and Canada thistle rut (400 insects – released in Westminster Hills Open Space).

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 currently, but the Westminster Senior Planner is currently updating the city's landscape regulations and manual. She is adding in the recommendation to source plants not treated by neonicotinoids.

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

Not currently, but the Westminster Senior Planner is currently updating the city's landscape regulations and manual. She is adding in the recommendation for landscapers to use “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society and limit use of pesticides while caring for them.

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

Yes, members from our committee attended a few different conferences this year. Pest management was often part of the conferences. These include Colorado Pollinator Summit, Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference, Native Plant Master courses and informal trainings online from Xerces Society and Colorado Weed Management Association.

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)
- 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
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We learned the importance of water for newly seeded/planted seeds and plants. If we did not keep up with daily water for the first 1-2 weeks, our seeds would never sprout, and our plants would die. For 2025, we have created plans for putting more irrigation systems in, in the City of Westminster. The main spot is the Pollinator Garden at Standley Lake Regional Park and Wildlife Refuge.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [NoxWeedMgmtPlan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [COWPlantList\(April2022\) \(1\) \(1\).xlsx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://plantselect.org/>