

# Bee City USA - Albuquerque

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation continued their effort of planting native pollinator plants in streetscapes and planters. City of Albuquerque BioPark established two pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens at Tingley Beach, a free public space located at 1800 Tingley Drive SW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, with associated interpretive messaging (in English and Spanish) highlighting the importance of pollinators, pollinator habitats and integrated pest management strategies. Tingley Beach being a free public space attracts demographics from all socioeconomic backgrounds to engage with nature. In addition, the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden, located at 2601 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 exhibited seasonal butterflies and bees featuring monarch butterflies and 40 other native pollinator species along with interpretive graphics in English and Spanish in their seasonal Butterfly Pavilion. ABQ BioPark Education actively promotes Citizen Science engagement and use of iNaturalist. The ABQ BioPark supported the City Nature Challenge 2021 for citizens to explore nature in and around their community and share their observations from April 30 to May 3, 2021. In addition, the ABQ BioPark supports volunteers in participating in Nature's Notebook, a citizen science effort that is part of the USA National Phenology Network. The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division initiated a pilot program for volunteers to address noxious weeds, known as Weed Warriors. Weed Warriors is a program where participants work together to selectively remove invasive plant species, and thus improve the ability for native species to compete with their non-native visitors. Invasive species removal was performed using hand tools followed by removal of the noxious species from the site. Post removal of invasive species, a native seed mix is sowed into the soil. Conservation Education Service Learning Program at the Open Space Visitor Center on November 19th. 66 Harrison Middle School youth and 17 adults participated in a variety of habitat enhancement project work including the planting of 30 potted native wildflowers along with other pollinator habitat friendly projects. Saturday Explorer Camps for youth ages 6-10-years-old at the Open Space Visitor Center. Cottonwood Forest Creatures on September 11 and Native vs. Invasive on October 23rd both included pollinator thematic elements in their 3-hour curriculum. Pollinator Festival all ages event at the Open Space Visitor Center on June 12th. Event visitors engaged in a variety of hands-on activities, lectures, and guided tours. Powerful Pollinators youth summer camp for ages 6-9-years-old at the Open Space Visitor Center. June 9th through June 11th, 9-hour curriculum. All BioPark spring break and summer camps at the Botanic Garden feature native pollinators, especially the "Explore a Bug's World" summer camp for grades 2-3. The ABQ BioPark established a Zoo-Park Partnership with Valles Caldera National Preserve, which will involve the community in building pollinator-friendly habitats in their yards, at the BioPark and in the Preserve.





Pollinator Garden at Open Space Visitor Center



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## Education & Outreach

Many pollinator conservation events occurred in our City last year. A few that our committee hosted include an edible and medicinal plant walk through several pollinator habitats planted and enhanced over the years at the Open Space Visitor Center, a birds and bees and flowers and trees lecture including the Native New Mexico Pollinators group, a flower identification walk within the largest pollinator habitat grown and enhanced to date called the Common Edge Pollinator Field, and many lectures that were all about bees. Other places such as the Albuquerque Bio-Park had daily lectures and walks about pollinators that were not counted as events as I don't have the numbers for that unfortunately. At least 10 events were held in the Common Edge Pollinator Field where volunteers helped to enhance the pollinator habitat by planting vegetation for pollinators specifically. The Albuquerque BEEKS (beekeepers) and New Mexico Beekeepers Association hosted dozens of events as well beekeeping classes and outdoor beekeeping of 7 hives at the Open Space Visitor Center throughout the whole year of 2021.





Welcome Table for 2021 Pollinator Festival



Teaching the community about honeybees and their role in pollination

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## Policies & Practices

Still working on implementing a new Integrated Pest Management Plan

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

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