

Bee City USA - Hillsboro

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

• In 2021, over 50 community garden volunteers and Tualatin Valley, Aloha, and Sunrise Garden Clubs worked together at Hillsboro's Sunrise Community Garden site to create a sustainable, environmentally-friendly, pollinator-friendly planter to attract and feed our pollinator friends – specifically monarch butterflies and bees. The goal was attained through a Hügelculture (Hügelkultur) planter with native and non-native pollinator plants such as Oregon Milkweed, Common Milkweed, May Night Salvia, Anise Hyssop, and Bee Balm. • 660 *Asclepias fascicularis* and 2,070 *Asclepias speciosa* plugs were planted in the pollinator garden adjacent to the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Nature Center to create a 0.34-acre monarch friendly demonstration area. Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff also seeded 10 pounds of a native Monarch Way Station Seed Mix in a highly visible 1.21-acre meadow area at the Orenco Woods Nature Park. • Farmington Gardens generously donated \$2,500 from their storewide 'Give Back' Earth Day event. This donation was used to support Hillsboro's Bee City community education and engagement efforts. • Over 100 community volunteers joined Friends of Trees in planting 5,473 of plants to assist with restoration efforts in the wetlands during three different planting events held at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve in October. • Hillsboro's middle school leadership program SPLASH (Students Pursuing Leadership and Serving Hillsboro) created and handed out 85 free kits for the community to make wildflower seed bombs to support pollinator habitat in Hillsboro. The students also created a video training which included information about pollinators, the Hillsboro's Bee City initiative, and instructions on how to make the seed bombs. During the drive-through kit pick up, SPLASH students also conducted surveys gathering information around volunteering, youth involvement in the community, and pollinator gardens.





Swallowtail butterfly enjoying milkweed in a pollinator demonstration garden.



Volunteers with Friends of Trees plant natives at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.



Hügelculture (Hügelkultur) planter with pollinator plants at Hillsboro's Sonrise Community Garden site.

Education & Outreach

In 2021, the City of Hillsboro's Bee City oversight committee members supported the following pollinator education and conservation events:

- Hillsboro celebrated Pollinator Week with a fantastic week-long lineup of 45 different pollinator focused activities, which included crafts, flower walks, live talks, a scavenger hunt, webinars, and good reads.
- During the summer months, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve staff developed free outreach activities focused on pollinator education and engaged the community at a variety of locations throughout Hillsboro, including libraries, parks, and outdoor recreation areas near high density housing. Youth were provided Spanish/English take home craft kits. This programming reached 210 youth and 325 adults.
- In the fall, City staff continued the tradition of posting "Leave the Leaves" signs near naturally mulched flower beds in high foot traffic areas. This year, educational messaging about healthy pollinator habitat also reached community members through social and print media, including an article in the City Views Newsletter which reaches 47,000+ Hillsboro homes and businesses.
- Bilingual pop-up arboreta were installed at Orenco Woods Nature Park, Century Oaks Park, Reedville Creek Park, and Glencoe Creek Park to encourage community education and engagement.





A family enjoying pollinator outreach activities in a Hillsboro park.



Jackson Bottom staff providing free pollinator education and activities throughout Hillsboro as part of the WOW! (Wetlands on Wheels!) summer program.



Bilingual sign highlighting a pollinator friendly tree as part a pop-up arboretum at one of Hillsboro's parks.

Policies & Practices

- The City of Hillsboro is continuing to treat multiple invasive species across many natural areas and nature parks, which total more than 400 acres. The primary technique of removing invasive species is mechanical removal (i.e., mowing, hand pulling) or herbicide treatment, depending on the species that are present onsite. Many of these areas have been or are in the process of being seeded and/or planted with pollinator friendly plants. Once the areas have been planted, monitoring will continue to keep the invasive species under control.
- The Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Community Garden Program, in partnership with the Hillsboro School District and local churches, manages three organic, pesticide-free garden sites with over 200 hundred garden plots available on a first-come, first-served basis to Hillsboro residents. Gardeners in the program have the opportunity to grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables in privately leased plots and also cooperate with one another to manage the larger community garden site. The City of Hillsboro recognizes community gardening as an activity that contributes to the health and well-being of the wider community as well. Our program promotes community building, sustainable practices, and ecologically responsible gardening.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Hillsboro - CWS IPM Plan.pdf](#)



<https://www.cleanwaterservices.org/media/1289/integrated-pest-management-plan.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/01/24/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native Plant Nursery or Nurseries - Oregon, OR.pdf](#)

http://www.plantnative.org/nd_or.htm



A garden plot celebrating the pesticide free practices at one of Hillsboro's Community Garden sites.

Learn More

<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/hillsboro-major-projects/bee-city-usa>

<https://www.facebook.com/Hillsboroparks>

<https://www.instagram.com/hillsboroparks/>

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Sixteen members from the Hillsboro Environmental Stewardship Committee, which is comprised of passionate, diverse community members, listen to a report on pollinator efforts across the City of Hillsboro.

