



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Carson City, Nevada

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Getting the word out about pollinator conservation is an essential component for the Carson City Bee City USA #76 group. An aware and engaged community is crucial for helping us accomplish our primary goals of educating the public on what they can do in their own homes and yards to preserve and protect pollinators. In 2019, approximately 25 events were held throughout Carson City to promote pollinator conservation and awareness. These events ranged from Earth Day, to guided hikes, to beekeeping classes and gardening workshops. We are especially proud of the outreach we have done this year and look forward to getting more involved with the community in 2020!

Earth Day: 2019 Earth Day was co-sponsored by the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada and the Carson City Historical Society, featuring the theme “Celebrating Pollinators” to teach residents and children about our recent Bee City designation, as well as pollinator conservation practices. The day also featured guest speakers who spoke about Integrated Pest Management and chemical reduction strategies, planting for pollinators, and climate change impacts to pollinator conservation.

Farm Days: Farm Days is an annual education event for pre-kindergarten to elementary-aged children. The focus of the event is animal husbandry and agriculture and is a very important event for groups like the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada (GBBN). Approximately 2,000 children participate in the event each year, and with the help of GBBN they learn about how important bees are to pollinate the one in three bites of food we eat. Additionally, they get the opportunity to taste some delicious local honey while they are there.

Interpretive Hikes: Throughout 2019 Carson City sponsored several guided interpretive hikes for children and adults, covering a variety of pollinator topics including a: Pollinator Tot Trek - a scavenger hunt for young children where they try to spot a bee, butterfly, or flower in nature, or a Wildflower Walk where we highlight and identify local plant species and discuss the importance of pollinators.

2019 was an exciting year for Carson City in terms of public engagement; we hope to continue this momentum into 2020! Also, we have two more Bee City signs purchased, and are working with the Nevada Division of Transportation (NDOT) to get permits to have them placed along the roadway entering and exiting Carson City.

2019 Education and Outreach Events		
Date	Name	Location
January 9	1 st Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
January 25 & 26	Beginning Beekeeping Class	Bee Magic Building
February 22 & 23	Beekeeping Plus Class	Bee Magic Building
March 1 & 2	Beekeeping Plus Class	Bee Magic Building
March 30	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday I	Foothill Pollinator Garden
April 3	2 nd Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
April 6	Learn to GROW: Gardening Workshop	Carson City Community Center
April 18 & 19	Capital City Farm Days	Fuji Park and Fairgrounds
April 20	Wildflower Walk	Longview Trail
April 28	Earth Day	Robert's House
May 18	Kids to Parks Day	Silver Saddle Ranch
May 19	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday II	Foothill Pollinator Garden
June 7	Bee Hotel Ribbon Cutting	Foothill Pollinator Garden
June 15	Pollinator Class	Greenhouse Garden Center
June 16-22	National Pollinator Week	City-wide
June 17	Pollinator Interpretive Hike	Longview Trail
June 19	Pollinator Tot Trek	Carson River Park
June 22	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday III	Foothill Pollinator Garden
July 1-30	Carson City Library Display	Carson City Library
July 24	3 rd Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
August 17	National Honeybee Day	City-wide
August 19	World Bee Day	City-wide
August 24	Citizen Science iNaturalist Workshop	Foothill Pollinator Garden
September 7	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday IV	Foothill Pollinator Garden
October 2	4 th Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center

2019 Events: spreadsheet of all 25 events held in Carson City throughout 2019.



Greenhouse Garden Nursery Presentation: Residents of Carson City gather at a local nursery to learn about keeping pollinators in mind during fall yard care activities.



Farm Days: Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada and Carson City Bee City USA #76 board members pose in bee costumes for Farm Days



Honey Tasting: a child gets the opportunity to taste different varieties of honey.



Earth Day: Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada member Linda Groves poses with members of the Carson City Chamber Leadership Group

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Residents gather to learn about pollinator conservation and Mason Bees at newly installed Bee Hotel.



Close-up of the Mason Bee cells, some of which currently have 'residents'.



Volunteers gather to remove weeds and plant seedlings at the Foothill Pollinator Garden.



A late season photo of the Foothill Pollinator Garden's progress.

In 2019, Carson City seeded approximately 240 acres of disturbed landscape with a pollinator friendly seed blend. Primarily, this acreage included areas that had been burned by wildfire in previous years. In addition to seeding activities, Carson City worked to establish specific areas of new pollinator habitat – including a Pollinator Garden and Carson City Chamber Leadership ‘Bee Hotel’ at our Foothill Garden. We would especially like to thank our partnerships with Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, The Greenhouse Project, Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center, and the 2019 Carson City Chamber Leadership Group for their efforts in establishing this new pollinator habitat in Carson City. None of these events were specifically sponsored by the committee, but rather independent community engagement on pollinator conservation!



Native plants coming up in a burned area after seeding.

Chamber Leadership Bee Hotel: Following Carson City’s designation as a Bee City USA in 2018, the Carson City Chamber Leadership group wanted to complete a project dedicated to pollinator conservation. As a result, they designed and installed a Bee Hotel at our Foothill Garden Site – an area that already supported sustainable agriculture and food production in Carson City. Now, with the inclusion of the Bee Hotel the Foothill Garden has become an amazing site for children and adults alike to learn more about the connection between our food and pollinator services.

Foothill Pollinator Garden: In conjunction with the Bee Hotel, Carson City staff worked with the Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center and The Greenhouse Project to grow native flowers and plant them in a garden adjacent to the new Bee Hotel to provide forage for the bees. This garden is also adjacent to the 'Serenity Trail' which is prescribed as a wellness trail by the Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center.

Restoration Activities: The Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department completes restoration on disturbed areas every year. These are areas where weeds have been eradicated, fires have taken place or we’re working to establish more native vegetation. Since becoming a Bee City USA, City staff have worked to incorporate pollinator friendly plant species into all seed blends. The photo on the previous page is of the flowers that started to come back after a 220-acre wildfire that was seeded in 2019. Some of these flowers established naturally, while some were included in the seed blend that was used to restore the disturbed area. This area is located adjacent to the Carson River and is an important natural resource for pollinators.

Carson City is very excited about the pollinator enhancement activities that took place, especially considering most were not initiated through the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee! Through future volunteer and education events we hope to create even more habitat in 2020.

POLICIES & PRACTICES



Volunteers gather to remove the invasive Bull Thistle from a meadow.



As a component of implementing IPM, revegetation is always included in disturbed areas to prevent weeds from establishing.



Volunteers put on their waders to remove Eurasian Watermilfoil from an irrigation ditch.



Staff work to release a rust fungus at a riparian site to target the noxious weed Canada Thistle.



Sometimes a shovel and a pair of gloves is the only tool you need to combat weeds!

While our Integrated Pest Management Plan is still in progress, we have continued to implement a variety of IPM principles in Parks and Open Spaces. Specifically, we removed plants by hand when appropriate: species included Puncturevine, Bull Thistle, Poison Hemlock, and various aquatic invasive plants. Additionally, we worked with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) to conduct a biocontrol release of a naturally-occurring rust fungus to target the noxious weed Canada Thistle through non-chemical means. We also worked with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to complete corridor clearing by hand along a trail that would have been previously treated with chemical herbicides. Additionally, we completed solarization on noxious weeds occurring adjacent to organic farms and gardens, including our Foothill Garden site in order to avoid using herbicides in these sensitive food

production locations. These are all practices we have implemented in the past and will continue to implement and expand upon in order to reduce our dependence on chemical herbicides in the future.

We appreciate the Bee City USA Program allowing us an extension in the submission of our finalized Integrated Pest Management Plan. Staff have been drafting it throughout the year but would like additional time to gather input from all City Departments who engage in invasive plant management.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

<https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/parks-recreation-open-space/bee-city#ad-image-1>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List —

<https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/parks-recreation-open-space/bee-city#ad-image-1>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — In Progress

CONTACT US!



2020 Committee: Newly elected Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee Members



2019 Committee: Original Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee Members

Committee — Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee, Kelly Clark and Rex Jennings

Website — <https://www.carson.org/government/departments-g-z/parks-recreation-open-space/bee-city>

Social Media — <https://www.facebook.com/CCPRDept/>