



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Eugene, Oregon

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Volunteers at Eugene's Native Plant Nursery install a Pollinator Palace.



Eugene's Mayor, Lucy Vinis, dedicates our "Bee City USA" sign at the first annual Bee City Celebration, alongside members of the Eugene Pollinator Protection Committee.

Our committee hosted one event in 2019, our first annual Bee City Celebration. Eugene's first Bee City Celebration was a mix of education, outreach, and celebration of bees and pollinators. The day included a native bee survey activity to provide hands-on education at one of Walama Restoration Project's prairie restoration sites; a tour of the City's Native Plant Nursery to share information on native plants; a bike tour of the University of Oregon's "Bee Campus" that ended at the Bee City Celebration site; and an entertainment hub with music and food, where the Xerces Society and GloryBee provided outreach information and local native plant vendors were invited to sell pollinator-friendly plants.

A highlight of the afternoon was Eugene's mayor, Lucy Vinis, ceremoniously cutting a ribbon for the dedication of our Bee City USA sign.

Over 20 events supporting native pollinators were held in our community in 2019. These events were hosted independently of Bee City/EPPC by a variety of individual organizations (some of whom are EPPC members). Most were targeted toward adults, with a few towards families and children. Examples include:

1. Eugene Parks: Awbrey Park Wildflower Celebration, May 4, 300 people attended this family-focused event.
2. Eugene Parks: Native Plant Appreciation Week, April 21-28, seven events in partnership with McKenzie River Trust, Friends of Buford Park, Native Plant Society of Oregon, and Willamette Resources and Educational Network. Wildflower hikes, native plant nursery volunteer events, invasive species removal, iNaturalist bio-blitz, native plant garden tour.
3. GloryBee's Annual Bee Weekend, April 26 & 27, 1,500 visitors, a community event planned around customers picking up honey bee orders - including information on beekeeping, research, pesticides to avoid, and pollinator friendly native plants for sale.
4. Save the Bee 5K Community Race, April 13th, 196 runners. All proceeds went to GloryBee's Save the Bee Initiative which is increasing awareness of the role honey bees play in our food supply and raising funds to support research and education on honey bee health.
5. Play in the Rain Day, November 9, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Walama Restoration Project hosted a booth for kids to make native seed balls.
6. Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Wildflower Festival, May 19. Major community event featuring large educational wildflower displays, tours, tabling/booths by EPPC member organizations and many others, and native plant sales.
7. Birds, Bees, and Blooms Walk, April 27, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. Identification and natural history of native plants, bees, and birds by local ecologists.
8. Bee Identification Workshop, June 1-2, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. August Jackson, Interpretation Coordinator at Mount Pisgah Arboretum and author of *The Bees of the Willamette Valley*, taught a two-day course on bee identification with a focus on identification to genus, and the 30 bee genera that can be found in the Willamette Valley.

During 2019, Walama Restoration Project hosted programs and events that created or enhanced pollinator habitat in both the Education and Stewardship Departments. The Education program "From Seed to Habitat" hosted 34 classrooms, reaching 1,050 students in Lane County to grow 18,900 pots of organic, native, pollinator friendly plants for the enhancement of local public lands.

The City of Eugene's Native Plant Nursery, Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden, and Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden supported interns from the University of Oregon who are interested in working with native plants. In 2019, 4 college interns each supplied a minimum of 80 hours to help weed invasives, plant natives, collect and clean native seed in these locations, receiving 4 credit hours for their service. Also at the Native Plant Nursery, volunteers designed and built two "Pollinator Palaces" to provide nesting habitat for native bees and to use as demonstrations for nursery visitors, including day campers at Nearby Nature, an adjoining day camp.



Dave the Bee greets guests at GloryBee's Bee Weekend.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT



Volunteers at Eugene's Native Plant Nursery, next to a bed of Hall's aster, a late-flowering wildflower local to Willamette Valley prairies.



A volunteer caring for *Trillium ovatum* at Eugene's Awbrey Park.

While our committee as a whole did not host each and every pollinator habitat creation/enhancement activity during 2019, many of our representative organizations lead these efforts locally. Beyond Toxics hosted work parties to plant native flowers, Walama Restoration Project worked with communities and schools to restore and/or enhance native pollinator habitat, and the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space team held regular volunteer events at the following locations:

1. Native Plant Nursery weekly volunteer work parties to support native seed production and habitat restoration
2. Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden and Rhododendron Garden weekly volunteer work parties
3. Hendricks Park Forest monthly volunteer work parties
4. Friends of Rasor Park monthly work parties restoring native prairie
5. Friends of Awbrey Park work parties

POLICIES & PRACTICES

The City of Eugene's Parks and Open Space Staff follows an IPM policy throughout the park system.

Best Management Practices are outlined for each pest in each type of park setting, and are reviewed annually.

Many weed infestations are pulled or cut by hand by staff, hired contract crews, volunteers, youth crews, and the Sheriff's community service crew.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List — <https://www.eugene-or.gov/beecity>

Regional Native Plant Supplier List — <https://www.eugene-or.gov/beecity>

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan — <https://www.eugene-or.gov/638/Integrated-Pest-Management>



Hand-weeding crew removing invasive species from wet prairie habitat.

CONTACT US!

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Website — www.BeeCityEugene.org

Social Media — not available