



Bee City USA Annual Report Pollinator Conservation & Education 2019



Ashland, Oregon

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Peggy's pollinator garden on the 2019 Pollinator Garden Tour (a former lawn).



Peggy's pollinator garden on the 2019 Pollinator Garden Tour (a former lawn). Peggy is wearing the white daisy.

- Tabled at Ashland's local farmers market 4 times during the summer, hosted by the Rogue Valley Growers Market - 100+ attendees each time
- Tabled at an Ashland art gallery for a "First Friday" art event that focused on glass flowers - 50 attendees
- Tabled at the Rouge Buzzway event in Talent, hosted by Pollinator Project Rogue Valley - 75 attendees
- Tabled at a large local seed swap in Ashland, hosted by local seed keepers - 100+ attendees
- During 2019, we approved 10 more gardens for our Approved Pollinator Garden Program, for a total of 61 at the end of 2019. Of these, 13 belong to Ashland Garden Club members and 12 are located at local businesses, including North Mountain Park.
- Created and managed our 3rd Annual Pollinator Garden Tour with 15 pollinator gardens and 6 participating Ashland businesses, hosted by BCUA, BCUA gardeners, and the North Mountain Park Nature Center - 125 tickets sold
- Tabled at the annual Bear Creek Salmon Festival, hosted by North Mountain Park - 100+ attendees

- Commissioners and Park staff attended a day-long workshop with Osborne Organics, hosted by Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, and Beyond Pesticides - 70 attendees
- Welcomed Phyllis Stiles and Molly Martin when they were in town in September, hosted by BCUA and other BCUs in the Rogue Valley - 50 people, including officials from 5 Bee Cities and SOU Bee Campus USA
- Kristina led a public program at the Nature Center, "Protecting Pollinators and People in the Garden", hosted by North Mountain Park Nature Center - 11 attendees
- Provided a Preschool Puppet Show on the subject of butterflies, hosted by North Mountain Park Nature Center - 11 attendees



Children learn about pollinators at our Preschool Puppet Show.



Donna's small pollinator garden on the 2019 Pollinator Garden Tour



Bee City USA Ashland Chairwoman tables at the Bear Creek Salmon Festival

- Kristina's quarterly column for the Ashland Daily Tidings, The Pollinator Connection, usually mentions the activity of BCUA as well as other pollinator happenings around town. She also covers good and bad news in the world of pollinators. In June, Staff Liaison Libby VanWyhe wrote an article for the Ashland Daily Tidings celebrating diversity in our gardens, focusing on pollinators to raise interest in the Pollinator Garden Tour:

<https://ashlandtidings.com/lifestyle/park-views/celebrating-diversity-in-the-garden>

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

- Riverwalk Pocket Park: Creation of a new pollinator garden in a neighborhood park owned by Ashland Parks and Rec. Design, solarization, soil work, planting, mulching, irrigation, etc. was a project of BCUA, Ashland Parks, and the Riverwalk community - 900 sq ft - 30 volunteers (12 people)
- The Grove Garden: Occasional maintenance by BCUA team members - 600 sq ft - 10 volunteers (4 people)
- The Rain Garden at Ashland Creek Park: Work party to remove blackberries, other weeds, and also some pruning - 200 sq ft - 20 volunteers (10 people) from Ashland Parks, BCUA, and North Mountain Park, and Ashland Creek Park community garden members.
- North Mountain Park Nature Center works with volunteers and community members from the Ashland Garden Club to maintain the Center's amazing Demonstration Gardens and Heirloom Gardens, all of which provide diverse pollinator habitat. - 9237 sq ft - 1625 volunteer hours (53 people)

- Ashland Parks and Recreation has facilitated the Volunteer in Parks Program since 2010, following action from community members and a decision by the City and Parks to discontinue use of pesticides on park-maintained property (with a few exceptions). This very successful program is led by a Volunteer Coordinator on staff with Ashland Parks. While not targeted specifically for pollinator habitat, it is a way for local businesses and organizations to steward our parks by restoring habitat and managing weeds without the use of herbicides. The square feet of these activities is very difficult to estimate, because volunteers work throughout numerous parks and public lands. - 3800 volunteer hours (1,150 people)
- The Riverwalk community, comprised of 62 homes across the street from Ashland's North Mountain Park, requested assistance in transforming a little-used 'pocket park' into a pollinator garden. Carolyn Hunsaker, a Riverwalk resident, joined BCUA to make this happen. The first and second phases of the project have been completed, with the third phase - installation of irrigation and plants in the large open area - scheduled for spring 2020. This new garden, along with the North Mountain Park gardens and the Hunsakers' garden in Riverwalk, create a cluster of pollinator patches within a small area. An album of the Riverwalk pollinator garden project is here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/F8TXgAaBJL9Ttbc9>
- The Grove Garden was installed in 2018 by Bee City USA Ashland on the small corner lot of The Grove, an office building owned by Ashland Parks and Rec on the busy E. Main St. The garden is planted with goldenrod, lavender, thyme, echinacea, and more. We continue to work on the irrigation system and improving the soil.
- The Rain Garden at Ashland Creek Park is a large circular garden in the middle of a large concrete pad at the entrance of a large, popular community garden. Established in 2017, the garden comprises a number of native and non-native pollinator plants.



North Mountain Park Demonstration Gardens



Fall 2019 sheetmulching of second phase of transforming the City of Ashland's Riverwalk pocket park into a pollinator garden, led by BCUA member Carolyn Hunsaker (in center), with assistance from BCUA members Nancy Appling (left), Albert Pepe and Kristina Lefever (not pictured), and Riverwalk community members (some not pictured)



Working at the Ashland Creek Park Rain garden



Volunteers working at the Ashland Creek Park Rain garden

POLICIES & PRACTICES



We conduct work parties and Service Learning to manage invasive species in our parks.



Volunteer hand weeding,

The Volunteer In Parks program has been in place in Ashland Parks and Recreation since 2012. The Volunteer In Parks program focuses on manual weed eradication by volunteers, community groups, businesses, etc.

Ashland Parks recently begun using some organic herbicides. See Ashland's Integrated Pest Management Plan below.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List —

http://www.ashlandsaveswater.org/assets/NativePlants_10.2010.pdf

Regional Native Plant Supplier List —

https://f5d66c9a-906a-4990-8897-20d125ce7879.filesusr.com/ugd/9290bd_9819e8d13c2d41d1933a5d0e156dafa9.pdf

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan —

http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/IPM_PolicyOriginalAmendments.pdf

CONTACT US!

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