

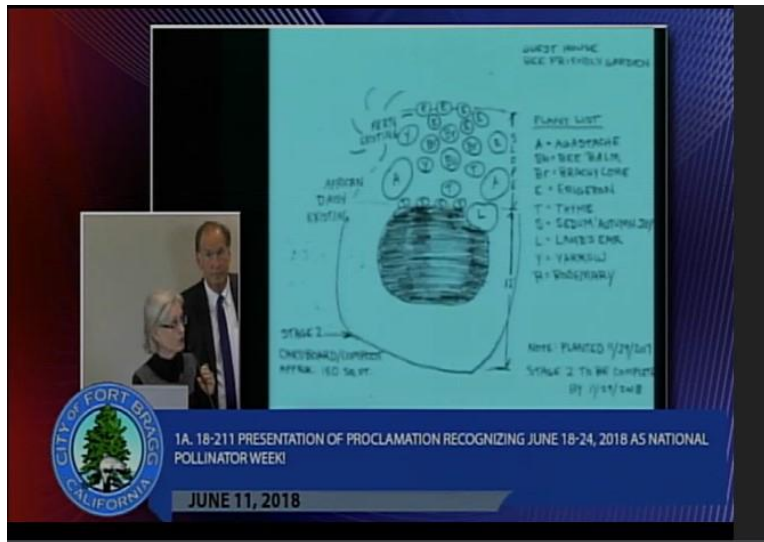


Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education

FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA



EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Two large events in 2018 focused on pollinator conservation and education.

The local annual Earth Day celebrations included several booths about bees and other pollinators, including the Bee City Committee-sponsored booth. Activities included educational displays, demonstrations of bee hives and beekeeping materials by local beekeepers, and art projects for children. The fair included a workshop on bee and pollinator plants as well as a plant sale. Close to 1500 people attended.

The Committee co-sponsored a fair for World Bee Day on May 20. This event attracted about 500 people with educational displays and art projects for children.

Bee City committee members also volunteered at the Fort Bragg Garden Club plant sale in April, which focused on pollinator plants. About 300 gardeners purchased plants. Committee members helped promote workshops at a local nursery on pollinator gardens.

The Fort Bragg Bee City USA committee is the center of a thriving community of pollinator supporters in the City and nearby points beyond.

Our education goals continue to be to increase awareness of the threat to bees and other pollinators, and to ensure that everyone in the City and nearby communities is aware that Fort Bragg is a Bee City USA whose citizens are working to ensure a thriving local bee population.

The primary focus of the Committee's efforts in 2018 was the development and maintenance of Fort Bragg's Bee Garden at Guest House Park in the center of the city. This ongoing project demands time-consuming gardening efforts, as well as communication and coordination with the Parks and Maintenance department and City Council's Community Development Committee. It also involves finding donations of materials and plants. The first planting at the garden was in the Fall 2017. Soil preparation was done in the Spring 2018, and another significant round of planting was done in the Fall, as well as preparation for a Spring planting in 2019, which is scheduled for March 2019.



The committee continues to support pollinator partnerships with the local Rotary and Lions clubs, and Fort Bragg Garden Club, whose volunteers maintain bee friendly plantings around the City; with nonprofits Safe Passage (family), Noyo Food Forest (food gardening), Bee Bold Mendocino, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, and Fort Bragg Library. In a new partnership with Project Sanctuary, we advised on the development of their bee garden in the center of the City and commended their efforts with local publicity and one of our two remaining of 18 metal Bee City USA signs, funded by Fort Bragg Rotary, bringing the total in our City of less than 7,500 to 17. The final sign will be part of the garden signage to be added this year.

A 4-foot Bee City “Lantern” in the City Hall lobby promotes the City’s dedication to bees. Small cling signs are in the windows of many businesses around the City who have collaborated in one or more of our projects, and in the classrooms of interested teachers who have used our materials and information to teach our youth about the importance of bees in our everyday lives.

Publicity about our activities, and informational articles on gardening and nature appear regularly in our local newspapers, the Fort Bragg Advocate and Mendocino Beacon. At least three gardening articles

emphasizing pollinator protection authored by a committee member or one of our active supporters.

Published last year, the tri-fold flyer, *Making Friends with Bees* by local nursery owner Sakina Bush, continues to be available free at every nursery in the City.

In April at Noyo Food Forest’s Earth Day Festival, Bee City USA – Fort Bragg participated in educational exhibits and, with members of Fort Bragg Garden Club, volunteered at a Bee City USA information table. The annual Earth Day Plant Sale and the Fort Bragg Garden Club Plant Sale featured bee-friendly plants and planting information.

The Committee co-sponsored or volunteered at other pollinator events, including a fair held to celebrate United Nations World Bee Day May 20. The Committee also co-sponsored a local attendee at the Learning From The Bees Conference in the Netherlands, August 31—September 2. Ongoing educational work based on that conference experience continues.

The City of Fort Bragg issued a proclamation for National Pollinator Week on June 11. During Pollinator Week the Committee sponsored tent cards about bees and Bee City USA which were on the tables of virtually every restaurant and displayed by many shops.

POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

The Committee’s members worked every month on the development and expansion of the Bee City USA-sponsored garden at the Guest House Park in downtown Fort Bragg (photo). Design and planting efforts are ongoing, and maintenance requires monthly work parties.



Committee members also supported the development of a pollinator garden at local nonprofit, Project Sanctuary. The Committee chair leads an effort at local nonprofit Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center to develop a food-producing garden that is also a pollinator haven.

POLICIES & PRACTICES

The Committee of four members includes residents of Fort Bragg and nearby communities. All members are also active at either the local Botanical Gardens or the Fort Bragg Garden Club and involve members of those organizations in activities, and recruit them to promote pollinator plantings in all their gardening projects at these and other organizations.

Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List—Website under construction.

Regional Native Plant Supplier List—Website under construction

Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan—To be developed

CONTACT US!

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Website—Under construction