

# Bee City USA - Garden City



Annual Report 2016

2016 was a busy year. Garden City became a Bee City USA in September 2015 and began monthly meetings. The Bee City USA Committee was established and began to work on a variety of ideas to spread awareness and work to help pollinators. Following is a summary.

The Committee elected a Chairman and Secretary and wrote a Vision Statement. The City had 2 Bee City USA Signs made and placed at entrances to Garden City.

## Education

Judy Snow wrote articles monthly in the spring and summer for the Garden City Newsletter. She also gave PowerPoint presentations to two schools, the Boise Metro Rotary Club, the Garden Clubs of Idaho Fall Board Meeting, 6 different garden clubs, a nursery, and at our Pollination Celebration. People reached is approximately 100 youth and 300 adults. Bee City USA Rack cards were printed and placed in the City rack and in the Garden City Library. They have also been used at other outreach opportunities.

## Pesticide Use

Lindsay Schramm of North End Organic Nursery attended a Committee meeting in February to teach us about using organic lawn care and pesticides. Colin Schmidt, Public Works Director, attended the meeting. She gave the City samples of products to use and they agreed to use them on a test plot for lawn care. At the end of the season they reported that they were not happy with the results. We will continue to work with the City to develop a Least Toxic Pesticide Management Plan.

Judy has printed a wallet size card to give away at her presentations. One side lists the 7 neonicotinoid chemicals to avoid. The other side lists pollinator friendly plants for all seasons.



Events:

## Pollinator Party

North End Organic Nursery held a Pollinator Party in August to help raise awareness about the need to help pollinators. There were speakers, food, and tee shirts for sale. Proceeds from the party were to be donated to Bee City USA.

## Pollination Celebration

We held our Pollination Celebration on Friday, October 7, 2016 from 5:30 - 8:30 at the Garden City Library Legacy Courtyard. We were very pleased to have attendance of about 150 people. Claudia Hambacker was the Event Chairman and planned a full evening. We showed the Disney Nature movie, "Wings of Life", had a PowerPoint presentation about Monarch butterflies and another about native bees. There were

information tables about honey bees, Monarch butterflies and native plants. Crafts included making an insect hotel, coloring and creating bees with pipe cleaners. We held a poster contest and our special guest, Smokey Bear, handed out the prizes. He was a big hit! We had a guided pollinator walk and Mayor John Evans planted a "First Choice" bluebeard in our new and growing Garden City Pollinator Habitat.



Mayor Evans with Judy Snow after planting a bluebeard shrub in the pollinator habitat 10/07/2016



Mayor John Evans, Judy Snow, Linda Welch announcing events. 10/7/2016



Mrs. Bee, Bonnie Winters and kids get into the spirit! 10/07/2016

Smokey Bear with his bee friend, Miss Bumble, and kids at Pollination Celebration, Oct 7, 2016

Advanced Master Gardener Diana Caldwell takes the kids on a pollinator walk around the wetlands. 10/7/2016



## Garden City Pollinator Habitat



Future Garden City Pollinator Habitat February 2015

In September 2015 Garden City became the first Bee City USA in Idaho and the 13th in the nation. To help fulfill the commitment to being a Bee City USA, the Chinden Gardeners Club, a Garden Clubs of Idaho affiliate, in collaboration with the Garden City Bee City USA committee, is working to build a free, public, educational pollinator habitat in River Pointe Park on the grounds of the Garden City Library/City Hall complex. The future habitat is on the south side of a wetland and adjacent to the Boise Greenbelt. The area was neglected and full of weeds but an ideal location for a public demonstration pollinator habitat. Grant applications have been submitted to fund the project.



Future Garden City Pollinator Habitat October 2016

In September 2016, with a donation from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, investment by Garden City, donations of funds, product and labor from local businesses, organizations, and citizens, the east side of the habitat has a beginning. Pathways have been installed, soil improved, irrigation installed and about 100 plants planted, adding 1800 square feet of habitat. We also installed a solitary bee observation box. The monarch butterfly sign was donated and installed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the area behind the sign was planted with showy milkweed. Eventually the habitat will be 4,000 square feet, surrounded by a low sitting wall and include educational signs, benches and a water feature. A Legacy Brick campaign was launched to help with funding.

Upon completion of the habitat, plans are in place for classes to be held at the Garden City Library for youth and adults, along with tours of the garden. We will also continue our outreach to local organizations, clubs and schools.

Total volunteers: 35 Volunteer hours: 1,009, including meetings, celebration, garden and promotion or education.

We are currently working on a lecture series to be held at the City Hall in 2018, creating a Bee City USA - Garden City Facebook page, and our 2017 Pollination Celebration. Two Committee members are available as speakers and continue outreach to educate about the importance of protecting pollinators. We are working on a local bee-friendly plant list and other information to help citizens support pollinators.