

Bee City USA – Garden City



Annual Report 2018

As a Bee City USA, Garden City, Idaho had an exciting year in 2018. The completion of the 4,000 sq. ft. public Garden City Pollinator Habitat and seeing the thousands of pollinators visiting and living there was the highlight of our year. We celebrated the accomplishment of that goal in June at our annual Pollinator Celebration. Other activities in 2018 include:

Education

We held our first Bee City USA Lecture Series at the Garden City Library, once a month, February through May. Each lecture had an average of 50 attendees. Topics were *Why Pollinators Need our Help*, *Beyond Honey Bees-An Introduction to Native Bees*, *Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides in our Urban Landscapes*, and *Planting for Pollinators in our Yards and Communities*. We had literature on various pollinator topics from [Pollinator Partnership](#), along with a plant list as free handouts. Outreach talks were given to beekeepers, social clubs, civic groups, and school classes about how and why to help pollinators. [Bee City USA – Garden City Facebook](#) posts kept people informed of news and events. We also held a Girl Scout Day at the Pollinator Habitat. The girls planted nasturtium seeds and learned about pollinators. [The Garden Clubs of Idaho](#) Convention was given a formal presentation and tour of the pollinator habitat in June. We had a booth at the Idaho Botanical Gardens “Bug Day”, reaching about 900 people, and a booth at Garden City Days.

Creating Habitat

With the pollinator habitat built and planted, completion included removing the center asphalt strip and replacing it with the personalized bricks that had been sold to earn funds for maintenance of the habitat. These were installed along with a concrete border.

A stone sign naming the garden was purchased and installed. A second stone sign with a brass plaque naming all the contributors was purchased by the [City of Garden City](#) and installed along the garden border.

Plant markers were ordered and placed for all plants in the garden. 7 Interpretive signs were completed, ordered, and placed in the garden. When ground bee nests showed up, a sign was placed to identify them.

Plans for a short wall to surround the garden were scrapped when the contractor bailed at the last minute and could not be replaced. Instead, we used landscape stones to create a visual border that really enhanced the installation. The overwhelming sentiment was that it looked fabulous and was a better choice than a wall. The stones also cost less, and with Garden City’s contribution of the donor sign, we had funds left over from the grant. [The Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation](#) approved the use of these funds for 2 more projects: 1) a stone-bond material to turn the gravel pathways to a hard surface and 2) a pocket-size book of plants for pollinators in the Treasure Valley. A diverse committee has been established to create and publish the book. It will be offered for sale at retail and agency venues and donated to libraries. The pathway project will be done in 2019.

Pollinator Celebration

With the garden in full bloom, the Pollinator Celebration was a huge success. It was held on a Saturday morning. The weather was perfect; coffee and snacks were popular. We dedicated the Pollinator Habitat and had 2 people doing guided walks to identify pollinators. The overwhelming comment after the event was that it should be longer to give people more time to see and do everything. Next year we will increase the time from 2 hours to 3 hours.

Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides

Creating an Integrated Pest Management Plan has continued to be a stumbling block for us. We were unable to convince the City Council to make time for a presentation from our sister Bee City USA – Mountain Home. They have an IPM plan and an expert who was willing to travel to us to explain what it is. A second attempt for a hearing also failed. We remain hopeful.



Pollinator Celebration 2018



Pollinator Habitat 2018



Garden Clubs of Idaho Convention Tour