



## PUYALLUP, WA – 2020 BEE CITY ANNUAL REPORT

### Overview

In our fourth year as a designated Bee City, Puyallup WA continued to support and encourage pollinator-friendly habitat creation and enhancement, as well as increase outreach efforts within the city. In 2020, our outreach activities looked different, as we had to ensure most efforts were accomplished virtually. Despite this change, the City continued to see community interest and engagement in our pollinators and their habitats, particularly during the summer months when the sunny weather encouraged community members to explore their own backyards.

### Pollinator Health & Habitat

At the start of 2020, The City eliminated use of insecticidal soaps in our downtown hanging flower baskets, the only place that pesticides were still in use as needed, for aphids and whitefly control. Currently, the City uses a systemic system during watering to apply Neem Oil directly into the soil to protect against unwanted insects in the baskets. This is done once or twice a year, as needed. Based on the City’s research, neem oil is practically non-toxic to birds, mammals, bees and plants. Because bees and other pollinators do not eat plants, the risk of Neem Oil to these pollinators is even further significantly reduced.

### Habitat Projects

During the months of April to October, pollinator-friendly plants were planted in the City’s community garden by volunteers. The goal was to have flowers for the pollinators in bloom all year long, in succession. Gardeners saw a healthy population of bees, butterflies, and other insects throughout the year. Volunteers took many beautiful pictures of pollinators enjoying the plants (such as the photo on the left), which the City shared on social media. The list of plants that were planted is lengthy, but examples include:

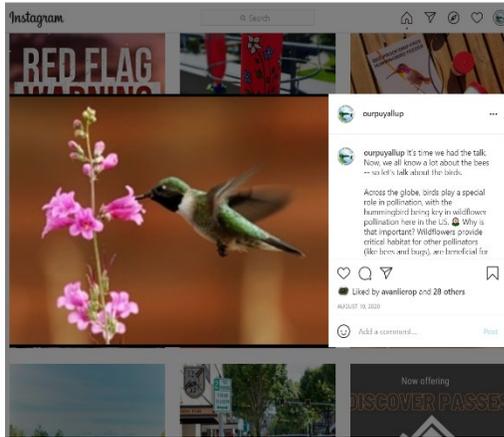


Month	Examples of flowers planted
April	Pansy, Crocus, English Daisy, Plums, Cherries
May	Hyacinth, Calendula, Columbine, Lupine, Kale
June	CA Poppy, Bachelor Button, Daisy, Foxglove
July	Crocsmia, Sunflower, Bees Friend, Yarrow, Lavender, Salvia, Gladiolas
August	Artichoke, Larkspur, Zinnia, Cardinal Flower
September	Aster, Mums, Sedum
October	<i>*No new varieties, many flowers still in bloom.</i>

## Education & Outreach

The City of Puyallup engaged in outreach efforts largely online, due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person events. Efforts included a social media series on hummingbirds, coordinating a Bee Week, sponsoring a bee-themed holiday tree within the community and creating a pollinator display in the windows of our downtown library.

### Hummingbird Series



From August 19 – September 03, the City ran a five-part social media pollinator series on hummingbirds, featuring photos and resources, an instructional DIY hummingbird feeder video, and highlights of local businesses selling hummingbird feeders and kits. Content included: Why hummingbirds are important pollinators of wildflowers and their role in our ecosystem, the types of hummingbird species in Washington state, how best to support hummingbird populations, how to make a safe and effective



DIY hummingbird feeder out of common household products (step-by-step video included), and where to find hummingbird feeder kits locally. Our posts produced a high level of engagement and were shared by community members and local businesses.

### Bee Week

During the week of November 16-20, the City promoted a mini community “Bee Week” that included multiple components. Through our Parks & Recreation PEAK Day camp program (Kindergarten to fifth grade), students spent the week learning about bees and other pollinators through story time, arts & craft projects and by watching age-appropriate bee documentaries. Books were borrowed from the Puyallup Public Library for story time and 11 pollinator books were checked out by students and their families that week to read at home.

A Library catalogue featuring pollinator books, videos, and e-materials was created and highlighted on both the City and Library’s website and social media accounts. Upon sharing this list with the community, the Library saw many pollinator-themed materials checked out in the two weeks following.



That catalogue can be located [here](#). The Library also created a large display that was maintained through the month of November that included pollinator books, informational posters, wooden bee hives, and other pollinator-themed decorations on the outside of the Library's windows for curb pick-up patrons and passerby's to browse. Each year, the Library's pollinator display garners much positive comment from the community and continued to be enjoyed in 2020.

### **Bee-themed Holiday Tree**



In December, the City of Puyallup sponsored a holiday tree at the Washington State Fair's Hometown Holiday Forest drive-thru event. Organizations across the City sponsored a tree to decorate in their own theme, to be enjoyed by community members attending the event. The City of Puyallup chose to decorate the tree in bee and butterfly décor, highlighting the importance of our Bee City designation. The tree was a hit with the community. The tree stood throughout the entirety of the month.

### **Local Website & Social Media Info**

The City of Puyallup continues to promote its status as a Bee City and encourages citizen involvement on our website: [City of Puyallup](#) and through our social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

### **Bee City Committee**

The City's committee is comprised of six staff members and includes representatives from three Puyallup City departments; the City Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation, and Development Services. The committee works together on community education and outreach efforts, planning new planting projects, sharing resources, and encouraging community participation in our efforts. The committee regularly communicates with knowledgeable community members on bee city items for ideas, collaboration, and to share resources.