



Discover Aurora's True Nature

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FOSTERING A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY AURORA



WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZZZ ABOUT?



WHAT EXACTLY ARE POLLINATORS AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?

- Pollination is the transference of pollen between flowering plants that promotes fertilization and reproduction.
- While some plants use wind or water to transfer pollen and reproduce, approximately 85% rely on animal pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, bats and birds.
- Scientists estimate that one of every three bites of food that humans eat depend on animal pollinators.
- In addition to food, pollinators are critical to crops that are used to make beverages, spices, textiles and life-saving medicines.
- Bee and other pollinator populations have been diminishing significantly in recent years because of habitat loss, the misuse of pesticides, disease and other factors.

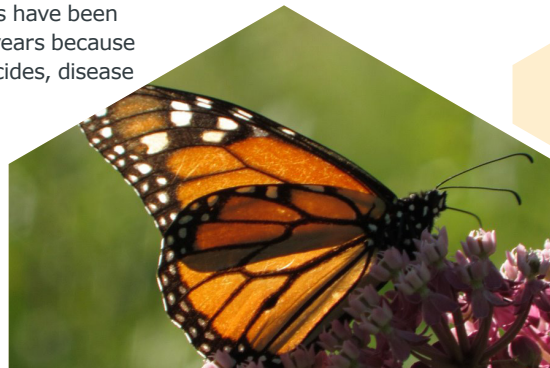


BE BEE POSITIVE



THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT A MORE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY AURORA.

- Bee-come informed! City of Aurora naturalists offer programs about the importance of bees and other pollinators to schools, scouts and community groups. Wildscaping workshops are also offered at the Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch to encourage the use of native trees, shrubs and plants. Call 303.326.8445 or visit AuroraGov.org/Nature for information.
- Plant native, pollinator-friendly plants in pots, window boxes and backyard gardens and replace lawns with native prairie grasses where permitted.
- Consider using little or no pesticides and purchasing plants that are not pretreated with pesticides. They contain chemicals that can be harmful to bees and butterflies.
- Consider not weeding dandelions from gardens and lawns as they are an excellent source of food for bees, until after they have bloomed
- Buy local and raw honey from local beekeepers or learn how to become a beekeeper and install a hive in backyard gardens or on rooftops. Aurora residents are allowed, and encouraged, to keep bees on their property.



BUSY BEES



THE CITY OF AURORA IS HARD AT WORK PROMOTING A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.

- The city of Aurora does not spray for mosquitoes and seeks to minimize the use of pesticides in its open space areas.
- The city of Aurora has employees who are beekeepers that perform swarm removals and provide beekeeping advice. Additionally, the city's forestry division contracts with beekeepers to help remove and relocate hives when cutting down trees with bees inside.
- Aurora has created "no mow areas" in its parks and open spaces to encourage native grasses and wilder landscapes to flourish to provide cover, shade and nesting habitats for pollinators.
- A Wildflower Ambassador Program was instituted in 2017 to reintroduce and cultivate native wildflowers in open space areas to provide forage for butterflies, moths, honeybees and many other species of wild bees.
- A sensory garden was recently added near the Morrison Nature Center that includes native plants, grasses and shrubs. This space also features fairy gardens and is wheelchair accessible.
- Star K Ranch is a certified and registered Monarch Waystation, providing nectar sources, milkweeds and shelter for migrating monarch butterflies.
- City naturalist staff and volunteer stewards have been trained to monitor open space areas as part of the Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network program.
- Bee hives established at DeLaney Farm, north of Alameda Parkway on Chambers Road help pollinate crops at the on-site Denver Urban Gardens plots.

