

POLLINATOR DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM YEARLY REPORT 2023



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
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RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

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Introduction

Program Overview

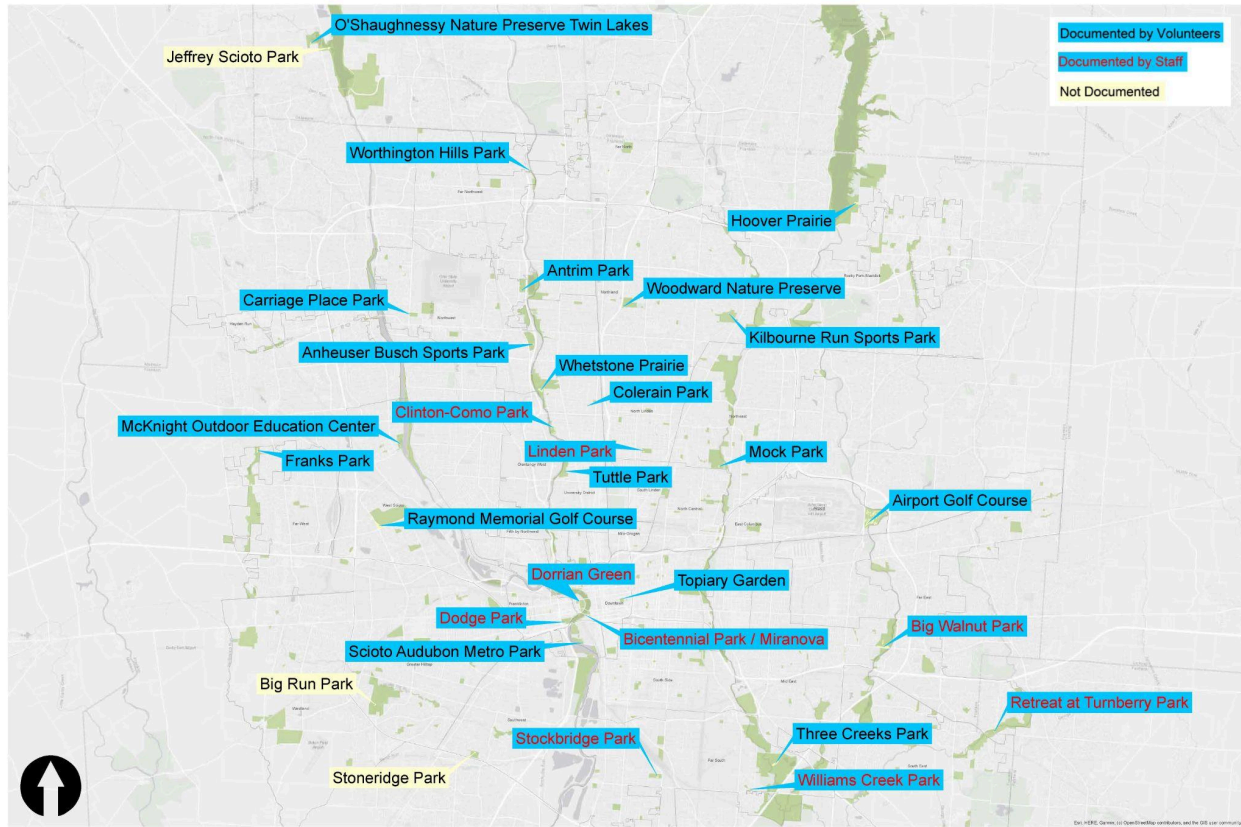
- Purpose is to collect data on species present in Pollinator Habitats as well as general habitat maintenance needs with the help of volunteers.
- Volunteers used the mobile application, iNaturalist to capture observations of species in habitats.
- Deadline of October 1st to record observations
- Goal of having each habitat surveyed at least once by deadline

Trainings

- In person and virtual options
 - In-Person Training
 - 1 training at Whetstone Prairie in May, 1 training Anheuser Busch South Habitat in August
 - Explain purpose of program, ideal survey conditions, interactive walking fixed route and recording observations on iNaturalist, completing habitat assessment form
 - Online Training
 - VolunteerHub sign up. Volunteers are sent an automated email of PDF slideshow containing training video, iNaturalist info, habitat assessment form, habitat signups, and comprehension quiz.
- Habitat Sign-Up Process
 - Sign up using VolunteerHub
 - Maps of each habitat included in sign up

Findings

COLUMBUS POLLINATOR HABITATS 2023



Volunteer Participation Summary

- Volunteer attendance (trainings)
 - In person trainings:
 - May, Whetstone:
 - 29 sign ups, 24 in attendance
 - August, Anheuser Busch South:
 - 32 sign ups, 21 in attendance
 - Virtual trainings:
 - 61 sign ups, 15 comprehension quizzes complete
- 33/36 pollinator habitats documented
 - 22/36 habitats documented by 30 volunteers
 - 15 volunteers recorded observations from in-person trainings
 - 15 volunteers recorded observations outside of in-person trainings
 - 11/36 habitats documented by staff

Relative to 2022

- Number of habitats documented - **275% increase** (12 → 33)
- Amount of volunteer training sign ups - **555% Increase** (22 → 122)
- Amount of volunteer self led documentation - **214% increase** (7 → 15)

Areas to improve

- Increase volunteer participation after trainings by 5-10%
 - 15 out of 60 (**25%**) volunteers trained completed self led assessments
 - In-person training participation - (8/45) **18%**
 - Online training participation - (7/15 volunteers) **47%**

Goal: increase self led participation from **25% to 35%**

Recommendations from Habitat Summary

See Attachment of Habitat Summary for more information.

- **Habitats in good condition**
 - Airport Golf Course
 - Anheuser Busch Sports Park North
 - Bicentennial Park/ Minerva
 - Colerain Park
 - Retreat at Turnberry
- **Habitats for woody species removal**
 - Raymond Memorial Golf Course
 - Whetstone Prairie
- **Habitats for invasive species removal**
 - Big Walnut Park North
 - Big Walnut Park South
 - Carriage Place Park
 - Clinton Como (South)
 - Kilbourne Run Sports Park
 - McKnight Outdoor Education Center (North)
 - McKnight Outdoor Education Center (South)
- **Habitats for both woody and invasive species removal**
 - Anheuser Busch Sports Park South
 - Antrim Park
 - Clinton Como (Central)
 - Clinton Como (North)
 - Dodge Park
 - Dorrian Green
- **Habitat/ park for a litter clean-up**
 - Big Walnut Park South
- **Habitats that need better signage**
 - Antrim Park

- Hoover Prairie
- Kilbourne Run Sports Park
- O'Shaughnessy
- Woodward Park

Attachment

Habitat Data Summary

	Habitat Location	Comments on Habitat Maintenance/ Recommendations	Survey Responses
1	Airport Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This habitat was beautiful! Well maintained and thriving 	1
2	Anheuser Busch Sports Park (North)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Very well maintained. There was an over abundance of goldenrod but it was beautiful and attracted many pollinators. 	1
3	Anheuser Busch Sports Park (South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A few woody plants ● Some thistle ● Devil's Beggarticks very abundant ● Trash on parking lot side - much looked to have been shredded by a mower 	15
4	Antrim Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are a few woody plants, a good deal of grass. Maybe some plugs could be added to the desired species. ● This is a small, out of the way garden on a slope, with lots of woods nearby. It will need some work to keep it from reverting to woodland, mainly removing invasive and woody species. ● Park is tidy and clean. I wonder how many know the garden is there? 	2
5	Bicentennial Park/ Miranova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some thistle but not a lot at all - the habitat is in good shape, just not very diverse. 	1
6	Big Walnut Park North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invasives - Little bit of Thistle and curly doc ● Multiflora rose, creeping Jenny, cattails, barnyard grass, smart weed, cockle burr, curly dock, bull thistle, 	2
7	Big Walnut Park South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Litter ● Cat tail and thistle 	2

8	Carriage Place Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The edges have various pollinator plants. However, there are very large patches of invasives. • As in 2022, there is a large patch of invasive prickly lettuce and another large patch of bull thistle. Also, native plants never got established on the southwest side which is dominated by bird's foot trefoil so we estimate that only about 20% of the area is native plants, 70-80% is invasive/ non-native. • Since the invasive species are located in patched, they could easily be controlled by weed-whacking before they bloom and spread seeds." 	1
9	Clinton Como (Central)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ragweed growing throughout, a few tree of heaven plants growing tall within habitat 	1
10	Clinton Como (North)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I did see a few 3-4 foot tall walnut trees, as well as several burdock plants that probably shouldn't be there. • Additionally, there was what iNaturalist identified as Poison Hemlock - it is unlikely that these plants were wild carrot as these plants were 4-6 feet tall. However, it is possible this was Queen Ann's Lace. • I would strongly recommend looking into it as this plant was everywhere, and this garden is right next to a large area used as an official dog park and a playground with lots of children. I would hate to find out they got into the plant if it is hemlock." 	1
11	Clinton Como (South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large coverage of ragweed in habitat that looked to be outgrowing natives, high growing thistle in the habitat and along boundaries • There was a little trash 	2
12	Colerain Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautifully maintained- no issues. • Park is in excellent shape 	2
13	Dodge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large amounts of tree of heaven growing throughout. Large patch in center of habitat, little other species in that patch. Pokeweed growing in a few places. 	1
14	Dorrian Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some bindweed and woodys • Small amount of litter 	2
15	Franks Park	NA	1

16	Hoover Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first visit, I surveyed the wrong area, the locator took me to an area right off cubbage. Now that the flowers are more noticeable, it is easier to find amongst the other garden looking areas. A sign needs to be posted labeling it as a pollinator garden. • no needs but noticed a few frisbee golfers fetching frisbees from ground bee area • There are many areas that could be mistaken as a pollinator garden. A sign needs to be placed in the one that is the Columbus pollinator garden. 	5
17	Kilbourne Run Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada thistle invading from edges. Plot very small. The groundskeeper mentioned that the park is undergoing remodeling this fall. I hope the pollinator garden is kept. • The plants looked burnt. They also looked bare with few having petals on them still • There was a lot of thistle plants. • Difficult to traverse, uneven surface, no notable pathway, not clearly marked as habitat • Litter. Groundskeeper mentioned a potential spot for a new pollinator garden at Cooper Park. Grassy field (newly mowed), on the left past 2nd gate, just before the soccer field. 	4
18	Linden Park		
19	McKnight Outdoor Education Center (North)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The bed on the north side of the building has about 60% invasive, and at most 40% native. • natives and invasives are intermixed - so it will be difficult to remove invasives without disturbing natives, especially with a larger group as was done last year • It would be helpful to establish a volunteer ""adopt a bed"" so routine maintenance can be done multiple times a year." 	1
20	McKnight Outdoor Education Center (South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The front part of the bed looks pretty good, especially the large stand of common milkweed, • there are some invasives in that area, but not too bad, no teasel! 70-80% pollinator plants • there may be many more pollinator species that may be identified later in the season • However, there is a very large patch of burdock. • to prevent spreading, it's necessary to prevent 	1

		the burdock from seeding. since this is a localized patch this would be very easy to do with a weed whacker."	
21	Mock Park	NA	1
22	O'Shaughnessy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It wasn't too clear where the garden was. I had started taking pictures where I felt it was from the map, but farther down the path I saw a pollinator garden more like the other parks. A sign would be nice. 	1
23	Raymond Memorial Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Callery Pear dominates along Trabue, more than last year, many other woody plants Except in one spot, we found very few bees, 2 small butterflies were seen, but not photographed " 	1
24	Retreat at Turnberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some thistle, johnson grass, and poison ivy. Overall in great shape 	1
25	Scioto Audubon Metro Park	NA	1
26	Stockbridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the no mow signs in the south east corner of the first patch has been knocked down 	1
27	Three Creeks Park	NA	1
28	Topiary Park	NA	1
29	Tuttle Park	NA	6
30	Whetstone Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low spot near where I ended had what looked like a birch and cottonwood tree growing. Possibly a very small amount of poison ivy 	2
31	Williams Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May need woody maintenance 	1
32	Woodward Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard to find in the park 	1
33	Worthington Hills Park	NA	3