

POLLINATOR DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM YEARLY REPORT 2024

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Introduction

Columbus Pollinator Habitats

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has 37 designated pollinator habitats. Pollinator habitats are areas of native grasses and flowers that provide pollinators with a space to feed, mate, and live.

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 free mobile application, iNaturalist, to capture observations of species in habitats.
- Deadline of October 31st to record observations.
- Goal of having each habitat surveyed at least once by the deadline.

Trainings

- In-person and virtual options
 - In-Person Training
 - May 30, 2024: Training at McKnight Outdoor Education Center
 - August 1, 2024: Training at Antrim Park
 - 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.
 - Supplemental plant identification training
 - June 18, 2024: Plant Identification Training at Whetstone Park
 - September 4, 2024: Plant Identification Training at Whetstone Park
 - Optionally offered to participants, intended to strengthen volunteers' ability to recognize native and invasive plants during habitat documentation
- Habitat Sign-Up Process
 - Sign-up using VolunteerHub
 - Maps of each habitat included in sign-up

Findings

Interactive Pollinator Habitat Map can be found [here](#).

Volunteer Participation Summary

- Volunteer attendance (trainings)
 - In person trainings:
 - May 30, McKnight:
 - 27 sign ups, 24 in attendance
 - August 1, Antrim:
 - 11 sign ups, 9 in attendance
 - Virtual trainings:
 - 87 sign ups, 23 comprehension quizzes complete
- 36/37 pollinator habitats documented
 - 35/37 habitats documented by 34 volunteers
 - 25 volunteers recorded observations from in-person trainings
 - 14 volunteers recorded observations outside of in-person trainings
 - 1/37 pollinator habitat documented by staff (Raymond Memorial Golf Course)
 - 1/37 pollinator habitat not documented (Jeffrey Scioto Park)

Relative to 2022 and 2023

- Number of volunteer training sign-ups - **2.5% Increase** from 2023 to 2024
- Number of volunteer self led documentation - **6.7% Decrease** from 2023 to 2024
- Number of habitats documented - **9% increase** from 2023 to 2024

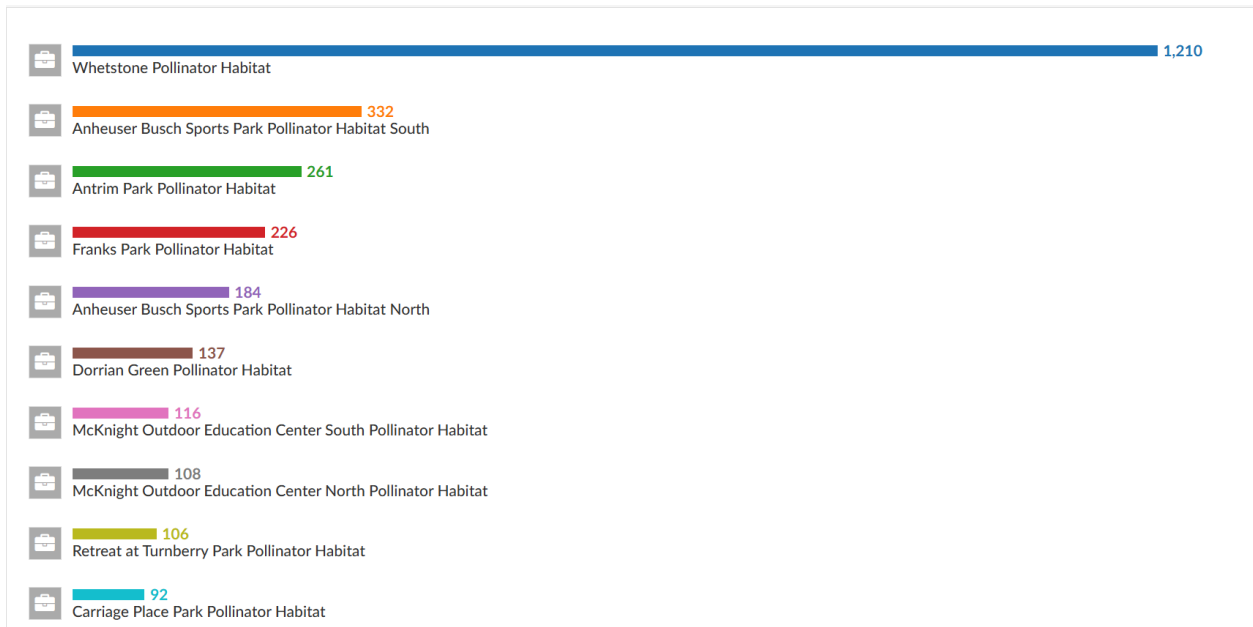
Year	Number of Volunteer Training Sign-ups	Number of Volunteers that Participated in Self-Led Documentation	Number of Habitats Documented
2022	22	7	12
2023	122	15	33
2024	125	14	35

iNaturalist by the Numbers

As of December 5, 2024

- 37 Pollinator Habitats
- 3,842 Observations
- 545 Species
- 277 Observers
- 57 Project Followers

Leaderboard of Observations by Location



Recommendations from Habitat Summary

See Attachment of Habitat Summary for more information.

- **Habitats in good condition**
 - Anheuser Busch Park West
 - Big Run Park
 - Big Walnut North
 - Brevoort
 - Clinton Como - South
 - Colerain
 - Dorrian Green
 - Mock
 - O'Shaughnessy
 - Sharon Meadows
 - Topiary Garden

- Tuttle
- Whetstone
- Worthington Hills
- **Habitats for invasive species removal**
 - Airport Golf Course
 - Anheuser Busch Park South
 - Antrim Park
 - Bicentennial Park/Miranova
 - Big Walnut South
 - Carriage Place
 - Clinton Como - North East
 - Clinton Como - West
 - Dodge
 - Frank's
 - Hoover Prairie
 - Linden
 - Mcknight Outdoor Education Center North
 - Mcknight Outdoor Education Center South
 - Raymond Memorial Golf Course
 - Retreat at Turnberry
 - Stockbridge
 - Stoneridge
 - Three Creeks
 - William's Creek
 - Woodward
- **Habitat/ park for a litter clean-up**
 - Big Run Park
 - Williams Creek Park
- **Habitats that need new native plants installed**
 - Frank's

Attachment

Habitat Data Summary

	Pollinator Habitat Location	Average Number of Plant Species	Comments on Habitat Maintenance/ Recommendations	Survey Responses
1	Airport Golf Course	55	Invasive : Phragmites, Japanese stilt grass, teasel	1
2	Anheuser Busch Park- South	17	Invasives: Creeping thistle, creeping wild rye, reed canary	2

			grass	
3	Anheuser Busch Park- West	11	"in wonderful shape"	3
4	Antrim Park	9	Invasives: burdock, honeysuckle, frost grape. Grapevine	14
5	Bicentennial Park/Miranova	15	Invasives: velvetleaf, foxtail grass	3
6	Big Run Park	13		2
7	Big Walnut Park- North	10		2
8	Big Walnut Park- South	12	Invasive: callery pear	2
9	Brevoort Park	9		2
10	Carriage Place Park	15	Invasives: wild carrot, thistle and prickly lettuce	3
11	Clinton-Como Park- North East	10	potentially poison hemlock	1
12	Clinton-Como Park- South	9		1
13	Clinton-Como Park- West	3	poison hemlock	1
14	Colerain Park	16		2
15	Dodge Park	10	Invasive: tree of heaven	2
16	Dorrian Green Park	23		5
17	Franks Park	7	Invasive callery pear and wild carrot	7
18	Hoover Prairie	8	Invasive: autumn olive	6
19	Linden Park	25	Invasives: Phragmites australis, cocklebur (Xanthium)	2
20	McKnight Outdoor Center- North	10	Invasives: Japanese knotwood Chokeweed, curley dock, burdock, bindweed, thistle, honeysuckle, crown vetch, grapevine. significant crown vetch, some grape vine, minor prickly lettuce, curly dock, burdock: weeds reduced, but Canada goldenrod more dominant than 2023, less sweet clover	18
21	McKnight Outdoor Center- South	18	Invasives:honeysuckle. significant burdock about 1/5th area SE corner, significant bindweed, significant woody north side	3
22	Mock Park	6		1
23	O'Shaughnessy Nature Preserve	9		1
24	Raymond Memorial Golf Course	10	Invasives: callery pear, honeysuckle, queen annes lace	1

25	Retreat at Turnberry Park	14	Invasives: Johnson grass, Japanese stilt grass, reed canary grass. Needs inv. Species mgmt	2
26	Sharon Meadows Park	8		1
27	Stockbridge Park	23	Invasives: Prickly lettuce, bull thistle, creeping thistle, curled dock, spotted knapweed, honeysuckle	4
28	Stoneridge Park	12		1
29	Three Creeks Park	10	Invasives: callery pear. This habitat is an old field dominated by generalist species, mostly native,	2
30	Topiary Garden	8		4
31	Tuttle Park	5		1
32	Whetstone Park	13		1
33	Williams Creek Park	11	Lots of poison ivy. Invasives: callery pear (a lot), honeysuckle (not a lot) autumn olive (some), wild carrot, ragweed, white mulberry	3
34	Woodward Nature Preserve	6		1
35	Worthington Hills Park	8	Lots of wasps.	5