

RUNOFF ROUNDUP

September 2022

SAVE THE BEES

Unlike honey bees, the majority of our native bees (around 70%) are actually ground nesting, which means they lay their eggs in burrows just under the soil surface. Large expanses of turf, thick wood mulch, and paved surfaces found in urban areas greatly reduces the available nesting sites for these bees. Consider mulching with compost or shredded leaves, which has many of the same benefits as using wood mulch, but still allows bees to burrow into the soil and avoid tilling, or turning, your soil which destroys existing burrows.

The remaining native bees (around 30%) are cavity nesting. These bees lay their eggs in hollow, pithy stems, beetle holes in wood, or other similar cavities. Many native plants like joe pyeweed, swamp milkweed, cone flower, and blazing star are perfect nesting sites. Instead of cutting the stems down to the ground at the end of the growing season, wait until late winter or early spring and cut the stalks back to about 8-18" in height. Bees will use the stalks as nesting sites during next year's growing season. Be sure to leave those stalks until the following year to ensure all bees have emerged.

When disposing of the yard waste, don't forget that the City of Norman's Sanitation Division picks up yard waste once per week. Yard waste should be collected in compostable bags or reusable containers no greater than 40 gallons. Find out more by visiting: <https://www.normanok.gov/your-government/departments/utilities/sanitation/yardwaste-collection>

Native plants, like this cone flower, not only provide nesting sites, but also serve as a valuable food source for pollinators during the growing season. These plants are well suited to Oklahoma summers and look great too!



Sweat bees, or halictid bees, are small and metallic green in color. The female bees dig burrows in bare soil where they lay their eggs and the larva/pupae can overwinter.



Celebrate our local waterways, including Lake Thunderbird, by joining us in one, or all, of the events this fall!

September 7

Fall Builder's Workshop
The Well (11 AM - 1 PM)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3I2LZfx> 

September 17

E-Waste Collection
Reeves Park (9 AM - 12 PM)

October 1

Rain Garden Planting & Watershed Clean-Up
William Morgan Park (10 AM - 12 PM)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3uSr2hZ> 

October 2

Monarch Festival
Andrews Park (12 PM - 4 PM)

October 6

Oklahoma Compost Conference
Will Rogers Garden

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3pgt7Bi> 

October 30

Workshop & Watershed Clean-Up
Lake Thunderbird (1-4 PM)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3zWDIR7> 



CONTACT INFORMATION

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