Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

IHCC has taken many active steps in creating and increasing pollinator habitat this year. We had a student worker from the community garden commit one plot to pollinator friendly plants with a bee hotel in the middle. We also planted roughly 300 native plants on campus in the spring and summer. We were able to order bundles of plants from a local supplier that emphasized plants that the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee are attracted to. We were able to drastically increase our existing pollinator section of the community garden.

Education & Outreach

Despite the pandemic and this being our first official year, Inver Hills proudly hosted numerous educational events. In February, we hosted Don Leaon who is a volunteer trainer on iNaturalist. Don presented on “Bee Basics” which touched on bees that are found in Minnesota. The committee also had an event at our Student Success Day in which we talked about sustainability initiatives and packed native seed packets for students. The Bees Knees Committee partnered with XERCEs Society for Invertebrate Conservation.
the Annual Research Conference committee in having an Earth Day theme to the virtual conference. We invited Jessica Hellmann to come discuss the impacts of climate change and Britt Forsberg from the UMN Bee Lab and Bee Atlas to discuss native bee species. In November, we hosted a Bee Informed workshop led by Erin Rupp. Erin is the founder of Pollinate Minnesota. She was able to come speak about pollinators, pollinator decline and what our campus community can do to help. In February 2021, we hosted a workshop that viewed 2 Ted Talks regarding bee decline and we had a discussion on getting involved with the bee committee as well.

Courses & Continuing Education

We have a number of courses on campus that discuss pollinator curriculum including environmental science, ecology, and environmental philosophy course. We also integreted with the art department in making ceramic pots for pollinators to be hosted and our drawing students had an assignment of drawing native plants to Minnesota.

Service-Learning
Educational Signage

Policies & Practices

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: Native Plants and Resources.docx

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: Native Plant Suppliers.docx

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