

Bee Campus USA - University of Illinois at Chicago

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

UIC was awarded funding by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the renovation of Arthington Mall Plaza. This plaza, which is approximately 37,000 square feet, serves as an open, common area for students, faculty, staff and visitors of the West Side of campus. Users of the plaza enjoy the space for leisure and also access the plaza to travel on campus and to surrounding facilities. The project installed a total of 21,253 square feet of native plant rain gardens with 45 different plant variants and 6,724 total native plants. The gardens include pollinator-friendly plants, such as black-eyed susans, prairie dock, milkweed, wild hyacinth, and the eastern redbud tree. The site attracts pollinators like eastern bumble bees, green sweat bees and calligrapher flies. More than that, the garden has also noted frequent visits of Monarch butterflies. The native plants are beneficial for urban ecosystems and help reduce water use since the amount of rainfall is sufficient for their growth and they have a good relationship with local pollinators.



Arthington Mall rain garden



The Heritage Garden painted and reused old smoking urns to beautify the Monarch Butterfly Habitat and to hold signs to educate passers-by of the importance of the garden.

Education & Outreach

The UIC Heritage Garden's Harvest Festival was an online public program that included a guest speaker and two workshops. One of the workshops focused on how we think about the physical spaces we have access to and imagining



gardening spaces for diverse populations, including diverse insects and pollinators. The Little Prairie on the Campus Weeding & Planting engaged volunteers in hands-on prairie maintenance and enhancement while educating them on the importance of the plants to the pollinators. The events also helped students reconnect with nature and socialize with one another outside class, especially when everyone was in lock-down and adapting to the new normal of remote learning. The Pollinator Friendly Landscaping Assessment assessed the UIC Grounds Department on their knowledge of native plant landscape maintenance and importance of pollinators from recordings of presentations given by the University of Illinois Extension June 2019 and June 2020 and assessed in the form of a 10-question online quiz. Finally, UIC offers 3 courses that teach about pollinator conservation through the department of Biological Sciences. A new class for 2020, Bios 294, Insect Ecology and Diversity included an extensive, two-week unit on insect pollination, including a major research paper.



POLLINATORS

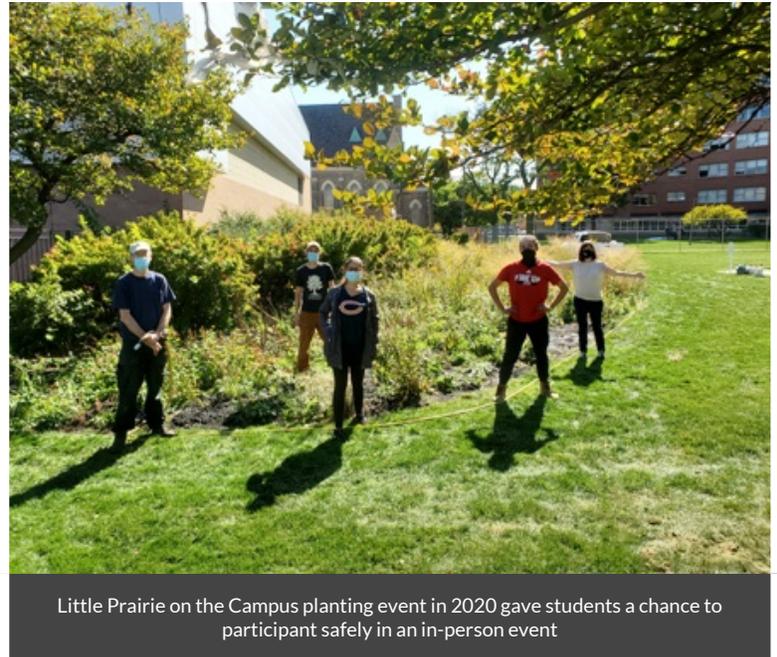
UIC Heritage Garden
UIC
Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change

Pollinators are an essential part of our ecosystems. They help thousands of plant species reproduce, making some of our favorite fruits and vegetables available to us. This is why the Heritage Garden dedicates these urns as homes for plants that pollinators love- pesticide free! It's our way of thanking birds, bees, bats, flies, and other pollinating beings. Be a social pollinator in your community by sharing ideas and creating seeds of change.

SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE TOWARDS POLLINATORS THROUGH PLANTS; EMAIL US AT HERITAGEGARDEN.UIC@GMAIL.COM FOR FREE SEED PACKETS.

This program was conducted in partnership with the US Forest Service

The Heritage Garden urn sign promotes pollinator conservation in the Monarch Butterfly Habitat.



Courses & Continuing Education

Service-Learning

Educational Signage



Policies & Practices

The Grounds Department maintains all facility-owned property at UIC and does their best to maintain weed growth by mechanical means. Chemical intervention is targeted and utilized at a maximum of (4) times per year. The Grounds crew is required to follow the UIC IPM procedures as outlined in the Campus Pollinator Habitat Plan on all native plant gardens. All grant-funded native plant gardens that have yet to be established are maintained by students in the Sustainability Internship Program (SIP) as well as volunteers that includes hand weeding, watering, culling, planting and mechanical pest management. No chemicals are used. For example, the guide directs workers to “prune off leaves showing symptoms of discoloring, dead- spots, and stripped leaves then attempt to locate the source of the issue and consult “Pest Management for The Home Landscape” for solutions. If these issues persist or the issue cannot be identified, contact the University of Illinois Extension for assistance.” More information about the maintenance of these gardens was written by SIP students at <https://sustainability.uic.edu/green-campus/grounds/pollinator-habitats/prairie-garden-maintenance-guide>

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:





Volunteers manually pull weeds at the Little Prairie on the Campus native plant garden.

[Learn More](#)



