

Bee Campus USA - South Dakota State University

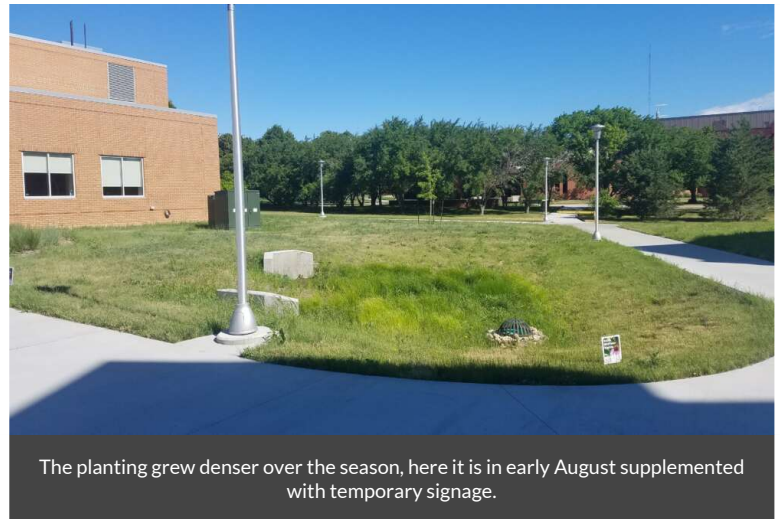
Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Pollinator Bioswale, Agriculture Museum- This new installation was designed by an SDSU graduate student working with the Native Plant Institute here on campus. The project used a variety of native plants for pollinator support and engaged the Agricultural Heritage Museum in the process to help incorporate interpretive signage for the final outcome of a learning area at the museum. This is a high visibility area for a smaller scale, high diversity, planting. Pollinator Lawn Alternative, American Indian Student Center- We continue to weed and establish the native planting lawn alternative around our Native American Student Center on campus. Supplemental seeding was added to areas this season as well as some temporary signage to help highlight this area. We are having fun tracking the establishment as the planting gets more dense. Next season we will add additional seeding and hopefully some permanent signage. Native grass planting at Raven Precision Agriculture- We incorporated a large native grass planting of little bluestem, dropseeds, and grama on one of our new building projects on campus. These areas should help provide habitat for insect pollinators and other wildlife. We plan to supplement these grass plantings with forbs as they become dense and established.



This is our first spring for the new pollinator planting near the American Indian Student Center after seeding in the fall.



The planting grew denser over the season, here it is in early August supplemented with temporary signage.

Education & Outreach

Insect Festival – September 11th: This is an annual event highlighting the importance of insects with the target audience of elementary aged children. There are several booths and tables set up with activities highlighting different insects and their roles in our world. Pollinator education is a large component of this event. McCrory Garden Party – August 6th: This



annual event included a native plant sale in partnership with the SDSU Native Plant Initiative along with live music and local vendors/ craftspeople. This event has something for everyone. The native plant sale component gives an introduction to community members that may otherwise not have contact with pollinator support efforts in our community. It is also a great place to purchase plants for use at home!



Young students learning the basics of pollination.

Courses & Continuing Education

More and more of our for credit courses are incorporating pollinator education into their material. The classes range from horticulture and entomology to range science and natural resource management. Members of the subcommittee are working with faculty to incorporate campus habitat areas into classes for education.





Students of Natural Resource Management take inventory on the Aurora Prairie near South Dakota State University.

Service-Learning

We are looking forward to service learning programs this spring now that we are past most of the COVID related restrictions.

Educational Signage

We were able to get out a handful of temporary habitat signs around campus to help people interpret our goals in these areas that look so different from traditional turfgrass. We will deploy more temporary signage next season in establishing areas and look to install more permanent signage as these areas become more visually appealing and dense.





Temporary signage for establishing areas on campus.

Policies & Practices

Our strongest policies seem to be in our building standards and guidance in construction projects. We are encouraging and working with landscape architects to plan and establish pollinator habitat areas on our new projects which is growing the amount of habitat we have in core campus areas that students can easily access and interact with. In these areas we ask that plants are not grown with systemic insecticides that could harm insects after planting and we limit our uses of insecticides to only injection-delivered insecticides on trees that are not insect pollinated. We continue to reduce the amount of herbicide in lower use areas and are working on acceptable thresholds for broadleaf plants in low use lawns as they can be a food source for insects.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM_SDSTATE.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:



Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

[Learn More](#)

