

Bee Campus USA - California State University Northridge

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The Institute for Sustainability hosted volunteers to improve pollinator friendly habitat in two locations on campus. The Sustainable food garden and a walkway planter area across the way from the garden were both enhanced. During the Monarch and Milkweed conference Day of Action 2022 in March, CSUN was given narrowleaf milkweed seeds to plant to promote monarch activity around campus. The Institute for Sustainability also provided a resource for the community called Supporting Butterflies at Home where community members can learn about ways to enhance their own landscaping to promote butterflies and other pollinator species. The Food Garden utilizes native plants alongside food bearing plants for cross pollination, and example of this is the use of lupines growing along side snap peas.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

2

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

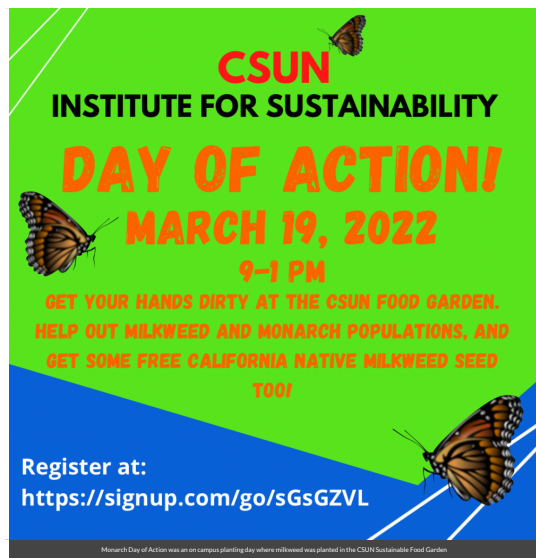
1679

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

1107

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Volunteers work together to enhance pollinator friendly habitat at CSUN



Removing invasive species is another critical improvement to CSUN's pollinator friendly habitat

Education & Outreach

Educational guest speakers, service-learning and celebratory events took place that engaged with pollinator friendly habitats and increased campus awareness of sustainable gardening, and where pollinator habitat can be found around campus. The Institute for Sustainability partnered with LA Compost and provided an on campus composting facility for the community to divert waste from landfills in exchange for nutrient rich pollinator loving compost material. They hosted guest speakers to talk about urban gardening and farming, while planting native and pollinator friendly species. CSUN partnered with the Santa Monica Mountains to provide education and seeds that promote pollinators visiting urban gardens. For the annual Earth Month festivities, CSUN provided many educational and service activities for the campus community to participate in, some of these included tree plantings, free coffee grounds for your compost, and educational activities on native pollinator friendly plants and sustainable living. A continuing series: Cultivating Local and Indigenous Knowledge focuses on re-learning the conservation practices of local peoples that were by default environmentally resilient and sustainable. This series hosted many events in the CSUN Food Garden where participants learned about native insects and plants that work together to provide for the ecosystem and humans. The Institute for Sustainability also participated in the Monarch and Milkweed conference Day of Action 2022 in March hosted by the Santa Monica Mountains Funds.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

10

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1145



Edge of Urban Farm Guest Speaker Scott, presents in Food Garden

Flyer - outreach for butterflies and pollinators

A continuing series: Cultivating Local and Indigenous Knowledge

Courses & Continuing Education

Agroecology Farming and Food Pathways (AFFP) Certificate Program – 6 Cohort completed. Students from for-credit classes in biology, entomology, ecology, and environmental history engaged with pollinator education. In particular, the environmental history courses participated in service learning tree plantings and food gardening where they learned about which plant species promote pollinators. CSUN's curriculum addresses many different aspects of pollinator health across a variety of courses. Biologic Principles classes briefly cover the roles of pollinators, and their important role in food systems, while Bacterial Diversity classes delve into the gut biome of honeybees. Pollinators are addressed with great detail in courses such as Plant Biology, Evolutionary Biology, Ecology and People, Flowering Plant Systematics, Entomology, and Plant Ecology. A variety of significant and valuable information on pollinators is covered across this multitude of courses and their associated labs. Additionally, Environmental History and Early U.S. History courses discuss the role of pollinators in shaping policy and land use practices.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information last year?

17

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

1110

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information last year?

1

How many participants attended those courses?

15



History professor and Director of the Institute for Sustainability, Dr. Nat Zappia, addresses his class while working in the CSUN Orange Grove



Students work to improve and maintain habitat on campus

Service-Learning

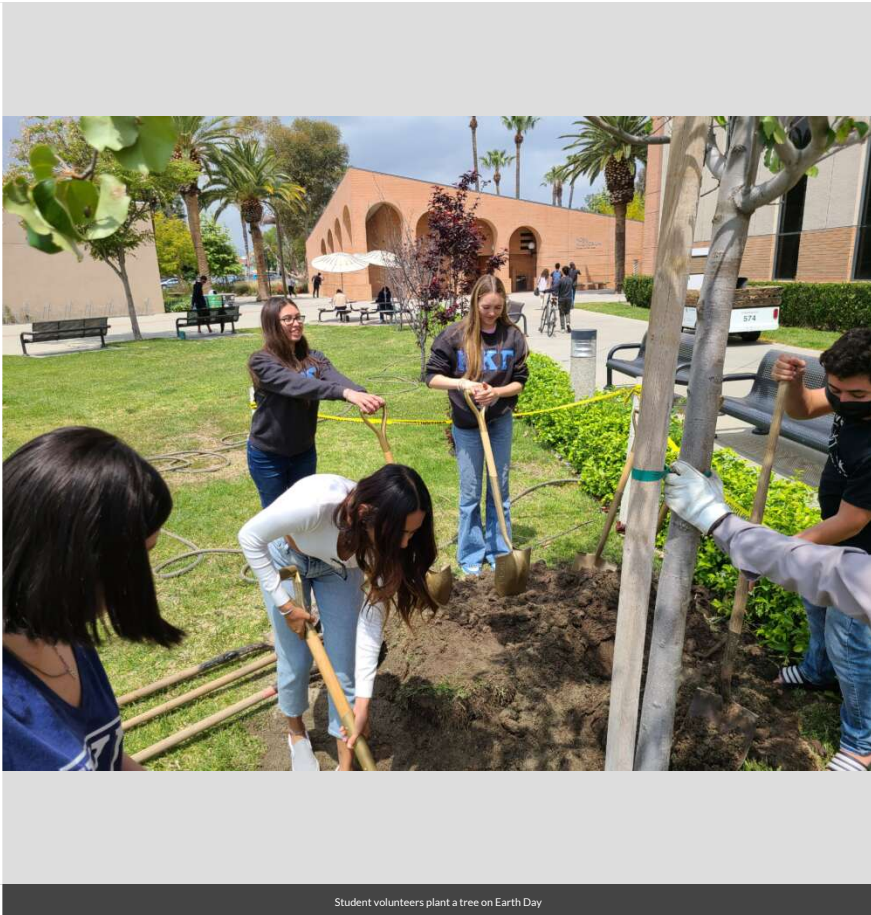
Native species planting, invasive removal, garden maintenance, milkweed plantings, Earth Day events, and Food Garden harvesting events are just a few that help the campus community learn about sustainable food growing practices including natural pest management, native plants, and insects. Through these events, volunteers learn about their campus and where pollinator friendly habitat presides. Most of the volunteers learn about harvesting events through courses or the Institute for Sustainability hosted volunteer events.

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on and off-campus?

10

How many students participated in service-learning projects last year to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

1107



Student volunteers plant a tree on Earth Day



Volunteers helps to enhance habitat at the food garden

Educational Signage

All educational signage deployed were permanent installments to denote pollinator friendly areas around campus. CSUN's Sustainable Food Garden, home to over 100 species of flora and fauna, has been recognized as a "Certified Wildlife Habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation. At our main flagpole on campus we proudly wave the Bee Campus flag, it is considered temporary because we have to replace the flag 1-2 times a year because of sun and wind damage, but we make an effort to keep a Bee Campus flag flying at all times.

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

10

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed last year?

2



Signs installed around campus like these, help educate the community on what pollinator friendly habitat looks like



There are many locations around campus with pollinator friendly signage and more to come

Policies & Practices

All landscape maintenance considers aesthetics, maintainability, health and promotion of the growth, and sustainability, and the safety and security of our campus community. All trimming, removal, and maintenance activities happen with consideration of all factors for the overall wellbeing of the campus outdoor environment and community. CSUN uses a variety of pest management methods in order to reduce the need for pollinator-harming herbicides and pesticides. These chemicals are not applied broadly to any areas of campus, and are only used for spot treatment. Manual weeding reduces the need for herbicide use, and the application of mulch and utilization of landscaping cloth prevents the growth of weeds. Spot-treatment of herbicide is used as a last resort. Additionally, CSUN's Grounds staff work with Biology professor Rachel Mackelprang to safely relocate bee hives that form in undesirable areas of campus, rather than eliminating them. Additionally, the Institute for Sustainability uses organics fertilizer and soil products which help promote natural barriers

to pests and limit introduced species to the garden therefore reducing the need for pesticides.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

In the 2022-23 Fiscal year, CSUN will transition many areas of campus from water intensive lawn and turf to pollinator friendly and drought tolerant native landscaping. This will encourage increased pollinator activity and limit the use of pesticides by reducing the need to kill unwanted weeds in the former monoculture turf areas.

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

Every year CSUN's Grounds workers take a yearly Pest Management course, a new Grounds Manager started this reporting year and he engaged his staff in a new yearly Pest Management training. Our Grounds shop is also always around during tree plantings and habitat enhancement, this ensures nothing is installed or planted improperly to avoid overwatering, pesticide use, and waste.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Integrated Pest Management Plan \(final\).docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [CSUN Pollinator Habitat Plan.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Regional Plant Suppliers.docx](#)



When planting trees, our Grounds department always oversees to make sure the new trees are planted properly to avoid unnecessary death, watering, or pesticides.

Learn More

<https://www.csun.edu/sustainability>

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<https://www.facebook.com/CSUN.Sustainability.Institute/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sustaincsun/?hl=en>

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