

Bee Campus USA - St. Ambrose University

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Two campus student clubs, Green Life and Engineering Club, collaborated on the construction of a mason bee house adjacent to a newly added pollinator garden in a campus courtyard (photo attached). Additionally, a local beekeeper installed and is maintaining two honeybee hives on St. Ambrose University property near main campus (picture attached). A current pollinator garden was expanded outside of the campus science building, Lewis Hall. The campus vegetable garden included pollinator friendly plants, in addition to the typical vegetables.

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

5

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

2000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

20

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

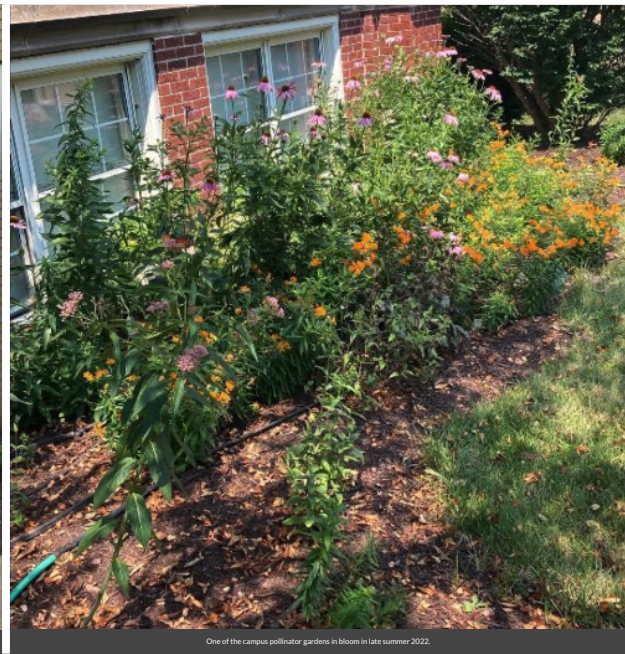
- Vegetable garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden
- Other



Green Life leaders prepare our campus garden for planting in May 2022.



Graduating Green Life leaders pose in front of our first ever mason bee habitat.



One of the campus pollinator gardens in bloom in late summer 2022.

Education & Outreach

Campus events focused on pollinator conservation engaged a wide swath of the campus and community. The campus environmental club Green Life engages with local elementary and middle school students at a large STEAM event on the St. Ambrose University campus each February, as well as at a regional Girl Scouts conference off campus. The club members helped children plant native pollinator seeds in small pots, as well as provided them brief informational handouts about their species and the importance of pollinator plants. At a fall campus Sustainability Fest, Green Life students sold over 200 seedlings of four species of native pollinator plants to the campus community, as well as members of the broader community. This winter, campus members collaborated with the local non-profit River Action to host a film screening of 'My Garden of 1000 Bees' on the St. Ambrose University campus. This event welcomed over 130 attendees and included a Q&A with a Fish & Wildlife Biologist about the important local implications of bee conservation. Our annual Earth Day events include many informational and educational partners engaging our campus community on pollinator care and conservation. We have also hosted campus tours of our pollinator habitat with Master Gardener groups.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

700



Over 130 attendees joined us for "My Garden of a Thousand Bees" and Reflection Discussion on the SAU Campus January 29, 2023.



Student leaders helped over 300 elementary and middle aged visitors plant their own pollinator plants to take home and provide community habitat in February 2023.

Courses & Continuing Education

We host an environmental studies minor, with multiple biology, philosophy and theology courses considering these issues. An upcoming Sustainability course in the College of Business and several Masters of Public Health courses will also integrate this information in the near future. We host a Sustainability Round Table workshop series that emphasizes regenerative agriculture among its many focal topics. We also hosted a workshop related to the Sustainable Development Goals with over 100 attendees.

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

6

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

300

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

How many participants attended those courses?

200



Students and community members attend a Spring 2022 workshop related to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals on Campus.

Service-Learning

Students traveled with campus ministry to several spring break trips related to conservation. Our students maintain our campus garden, hosted and managed with our local Catholic Diocese. Student groups have regularly assisted with community gardens in nearby neighborhoods, and we have assisted other local non-profits with tree planting, tree root wrapping, and weed management initiatives.

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

8

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

100

Educational Signage

Permanent signage is now present with our beehives and one pollinator garden. We hope to secure grant funding for 2-3 more in the upcoming year. We had contracted with a sign maker to produce several additional signs, but they never sent

us final proofs or an invoice. We are trying to find another in the local area to support. We include significant temporary signage as both our Earth Day and Sustainability Fest Events

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

2

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

5

Policies & Practices

Our grounds crew has been very intentional only to apply chemical pesticides with spot spraying in locations near or in buildings, taking care not to spray anywhere near our beehive locations. We continue to coordinate with members of the city public works department regarding their native roots program, which encourages additional care in local neighborhoods.

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

- **Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)**
- **Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds**
- **Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use**
- **Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids**

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

Our campus has had several conversations with Pesticide Free Campus about a potential pilot project; discussions are ongoing!

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?

This is our largest challenge right now; our volunteer committee simply doesn't have the bandwidth to try and effect this level of change. Our goal in the next year is to develop an IPM "mission" stating specific values and goals, as implementation of a full plan may be a challenge in the next year. Still, with general openness to exploring the pesticide

free campus pilot, we continue to make baby steps with our urban, manicured campus.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

[Learn More](#)