Bee Campus USA - University of Arkansas

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The UA campus took on some amazing biodiversity projects throughout 2022. A massive project was establishing 4 miles of nature trails throughout the UA campus which are part of the Fayetteville Traverse. This trail corridor received significant invasive plant removal. No trees were removed during construction. Sections of the trail received native plantings and/or native forb and grass seed. One section of trail travels along a creek, which received a full restoration from the Watershed Conservation Resource Center. In addition, the UA continued to use fire and herbicide to actively manage the UA Oak Savanna which is also home to section of newly built nature trail with enhanced bird habitat and viewing.

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

6

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

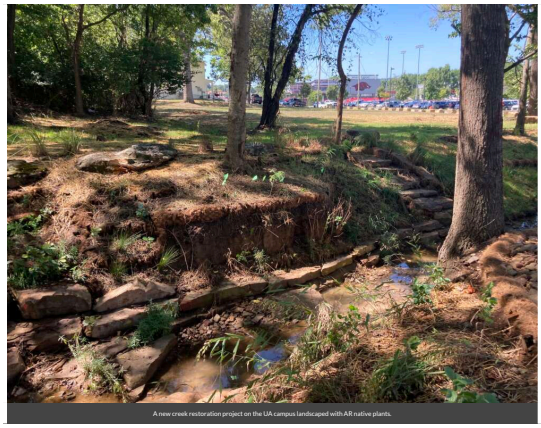
125340

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

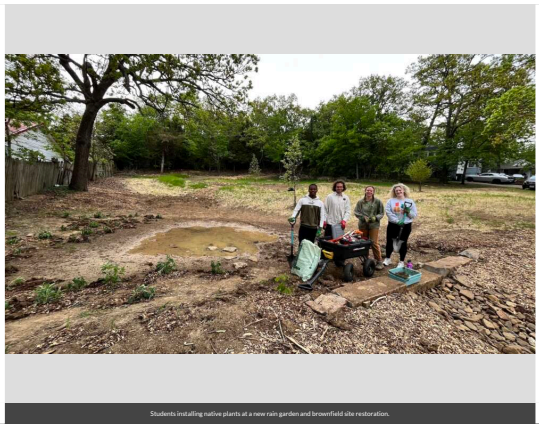
70

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



A new creek restoration project on the UA campus landscaped with AR native plants.



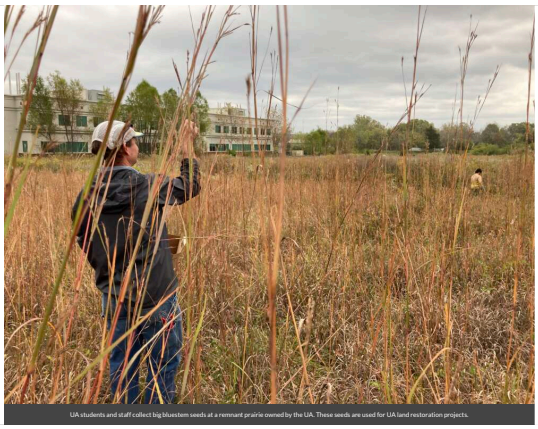
Students installing native plants at a new rain garden and brownfield site restoration.

Education & Outreach

Pollinator conservation events at the University of Arkansas arise out of so many departments and centers that it's very hard to be aware of all of them. However, some of the events that the UA Office for Sustainability is aware of included Remnant Prairie Conservation Seed Collections, Office Hours at the Press House Monarch Waystation with Melissa King, Open House at the U of A Herbarium and Arthropod Museum, and weekly volunteer days to remove invasive plants and establish native plants for pollinators along the Oak Ridge Hillside. We always include some education around why this is important for the ecosystem. The 2023 Arkansas Pollinator Week programming and Project Wingspan, an ongoing project to increase pollinator habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity across the Midwest, were significant community and state-wide undertakings related to the conservation of pollinators.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?
28

How many people attended those events (in total)?
500



UA students and staff collect big bluestem seeds at a remnant prairie owned by the UA. These seeds are used for UA land restoration projects.

Chase of Biodesic teaching students about best practices for permaculture systems.

Eric Boles, director of the Office for Sustainability, discuss the value of prescribed burns on the UA's Oak Savanna with our local NPR station.

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Courses & Continuing Education

Within continuing education, the UA's Lifelong Learning Institute offered classes such as Gardening for Butterflies and Beyond, Prescribed Fire in the Ozarks, Managed Forest Strategy and Recovery, Wildflower hikes, Trees of Arkansas, and Native Plant Ecology. The UA's for credit courses with pollinator related information include ecosystem assessment, entomology, insect ecology, principles of horticulture, and plant ecology to name a few.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information last year?
15

How many students attended those for-credit courses?
772

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information last year?
14

How many participants attended those courses?
168

The Horticulture department works to get students directly involved in native plants and habitat creation.


The UA Herbarium works with students and even provides tours for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

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Educational Signage

The UA campus has many permanent and temporary biodiversity educational signs. While none of them are Bee Campus USA specific signs, the purpose is to promote awareness and education of natural wildlife/pollinator habitat plantings on campus. In addition, there are over a dozen temporary signs up in areas being restored and rehabilitated to remind people to stay on the trails and to help them understand what is to come.

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?
20

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed last year?
12

Permanent sign used to responsibly maintain riparian zones on campus.

Temporary sign used in UA restoration areas.

Permanent sign used on UA restoration areas.

Policies & Practices

All insecticides used on the campus are materials and formulations registered by the EPA for control of targeted insects in public use areas. Materials include a range of different chemical classes with different modes of action. Specific insecticides selected for use are those which pose the least risk to humans and other non-targeted organisms from toxicity and residue persistence. A preference is given to biological control agents over non-biological toxicants. Selection of all insecticides are

made in consultation with the U of A Department of Entomology as appropriate.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
There are many policies in place to minimize pesticide negative externalities. A comprehensive overview can be found at: https://vcfa.uark.edu/fayetteville-policies-procedures/fama/7300.php

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?
The U of A does have an IPM plan that has been approved by the U of A Sustainability Council. That document can be found at: https://sustainability.uark.edu/_resources/publication-series/major-reports/2014-10-ipm-plan.pdf

Integrated Pest Management Plan: UA_ipm-plan.pdf
https://sustainability.uark.edu/_resources/pdfs/REPORTS/reports-ipm-2014.pdf
Recommended Native Plant List:
http://planning.uark.edu/campus_planning/content/landscape%20character%20zones%20and%20approved%20plants%20lists.pdf
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:
https://anps.org/resources/plant-sources/

Donn Johnson, Cory Johnson, Department of Entomology, and
Carlos Ochoa, Office of Sustainability

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Office for Sustainability

The cover of the UA's IPM which was adopted by the UA Sustainability Council.

Learn More

https://biodiversity.uark.edu

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https://www.instagram.com/sustainua/?hl=en

A working group of the UA Biodiversity Committee talking strategy on the UA's oak savanna restoration.