

Bee Campus USA - University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Report on 2022



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Activities in the bee lab garden last year: ongoing maintenance to manage invasive thistles and other weeds, replacing trees that died the previous year, and reseeding two bee lawn areas. Pollinator friendly solar habitat was established on the West Bank of UMN's campus, starting in November of 2021 with maintenance in the spring of 2022. Plants are still in the early stages of establishment. There is a mix of native grasses and flowering plants. About 15 volunteers helped with implementing the seeds and the maintenance.

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

1

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

1000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

2

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

- Flower garden
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Some vervain that was started from seed under solar panels on UMN's West Bank. A mix of native grasses and flowering plants were planted under this solar array on the University of Minnesota's West Bank campus. campus is beginning to bloom, and attracting bumble bee visitors.

Education & Outreach

The Bee Squad attended all of the following events. At most of these events, we had a table set up to engage with the public on pollinators using our pollinator toolkit. We also taught short educational sessions to elementary and middle school students at summer day camps and field trips in the fall. In these courses, we discussed what pollinators are, the variety of bees found in Minnesota, and what we can do to support them. Heidi's GrowHaus Open House – April 30, 2022 Northwest Como Animals & Nature Day Camp – June 14, 2022 Como S'more Fun Day Camp – July 19, 2022 Northgate Woods Pollinator Teaching – July 21, 2022 Tiny Diner Farmers Market Tabling – July 21, 2022 Longfellow Community

Council River Clean Up – July 23, 2022 Lower Phalen Creek Project Pollinator Festival – August 7, 2022 Longfellow Community Council River Clean Up – August 20, 2022 Tiny Diner Farmers Market Tabling – August 25, 2022 Minneapolis Monarch Festival – September 10, 2022 Get Out and Grow Festival – October 8, 2022 Teaching at Project Earth Conference – October 11, 2022 Teaching at Science and Nature Conference at Gustavus – October 25, 2022 Energy and Sustainability Expo – October 26, 2022 Pollinator garden outreach and education: Presentations included information on pollinator friendly gardening practices, native plant selection for Minnesota, and creating and protecting nesting habitat for pollinators. 3M Earth Week presentation – April 27, 2022 Mentoring Apiary class – July 17, 2022

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

16

How many people attended those events (in total)?

1200



University of Minnesota Bee Squad member Stephen Tolentino, excited to connect with the community at the Tiny Diner Farmers Market in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Courses & Continuing Education

For credit classes included courses covering IPM and organic agriculture, bee taxonomy and biology, pollinator conservation, and environmental problem solving. Continuing education courses included bumble bee ID and honey bee management.

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

10

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

517

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

2

How many participants attended those courses?

144

Service-Learning

Educational Signage

Permanent signs were added to the UMN Bee Lab gardens with information on actions to protect bees and bee diversity.

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

3



Bees of Minnesota sign installed at the UMN Bee Lab garden.



Actions to Help Pollinators sign at the UMN Bee Lab garden

Policies & Practices

Landcare maintenance IPM practices for pollinator plant areas: 1st – Cultural controls; 2nd – Mechanical removal; 3rd Spot treatment with systemic herbicide. For our natural areas plant management, we use a combination of physical removal of weedy plants, as well as carefully timed chemical application. We try to apply herbicides when plants are not flowering, as well as when bees and other pollinators are not active. We have not applied any insecticides in the natural areas. Our most commonly used herbicides are triclopyr, clopyralid, and aminopyralid. We also use a sparing amount of glyphosate on invasive grasses. When we apply herbicides, it is usually to individual plants as a spot treatment with a backpack sprayer. We have also adjusted when we mow our natural areas, in an effort to promote stem nesting pollinators.

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

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- 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)
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants 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?

Not to my knowledge

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?

Reviewed IPM plan

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UMN Twin Cities Landcare maintenance IPM practices for pollinator plant areas.docx](https://beelab.umn.edu/pesticide-free-plants)
<https://beelab.umn.edu/pesticide-free-plants>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UfpemJGEeV72P3muVFqPSuOLVeGj047u/view>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://beelab.umn.edu/help-bees/actions-help-bees/plant-bee-flowers/native-plants>

Learn More