

Bee Campus USA - University of Virginia

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The total number of plant installation and landscaping projects is hard to say. In 2022, the UVA Facilities Management's landscaping crew planted a total of about 154,550 square feet of plants and trees. Most trees installed are native species, many herbs are native. One practice that is new in 2022 is to leave the leaves. Landscaping crews implemented this practice in roughly 5,000 square feet across multiple areas on campus. Additionally, this past winter, UVA Facilities Management implemented new overtime pay for staff to manually remove invasive English ivy on campus. Work is currently focused on areas along the Emmett Road corridor, and slated to continue next fall and winter.

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

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

150000

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



A patch of violets in the new roadside pollinator meadow. This steep hillside was formerly entirely grass and mowed regularly, but now features forbs and herbs left to grow and flower.



A patch of bee balm and yellow flecks of golden Alexander and buttercup growing in the new roadside pollinator meadow.

Education & Outreach

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

How many people attended those events (in total)?

Courses & Continuing Education

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

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

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

How many participants attended those courses?

Service-Learning

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

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

Educational Signage

Eastern cicada killer wasps and *Scutella dubia* wasps are both common on some parts of the University grounds, so UVA Facilities Management produced signs to be displayed seasonally (when the wasps are out) that explain to pedestrians that the wasps are harmless and important ecologically. Additionally, UVA set up Leave the Leaves signs from the Xerces Society in areas where the new practice was implemented. Cicada killer signage – last 3 years, 2 signs *Scutella dubia* – last 2 years, 2 signs Leave the leaves – this past fall, 6 signs

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

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

10



Policies & Practices

UVA has just recently hired a new Landscape Plant Health Special (LPHS) to cultivate and implement a new Integrated Pest Management System in which biological, manual, and cultural control methods are the focus with minimal chemical control (only when necessary.) With this hire, a goal has been to allow for more areas of unused grass or ornamental plantings to "re-wild" in a controlled environment. With natural re-wilding this allows for invasive plant species to move back into an area but by maintaining invasive species out of the area and seeding with native wildflower seeds, these areas can be allowed to return to a more biodiverse micro-habitat. Another goal has been to cultivate and implement a new Integrated Pest Management System. Within the new IPM System the LPHS has already released thousands of beneficial insects to control pests such as aphids and psyllids. Additionally, our hemlocks trees, which suffer from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, are now being treated with St beetles, a newer biological control for this invasive pest. When chemical control is necessary, the LPHS is bringing in new, safer products to utilize that are less persistent within the environment, less harmful to humans or other wildlife, and target specific pests rather than a broad-spectrum insecticide.

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)**
- **Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds**
- **Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds**
- **Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied**
- **Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds**

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

The Lawn, the iconic grassy court at the historical center of the University's academic community, is no longer treated to remove clover, dandelions, or violets. This represents a significant step forward in shifting traditional aesthetics in favor of pollinator-friendly landscaping.

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?

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

<http://webapps.albemarle.org/nativePlants/default.aspx>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>

Learn More

<https://sustainability.virginia.edu/steward/ess-working-groups>
beegroundsuva@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/BeeGroundsUVA/>

<https://www.instagram.com/beegroundsuva/>

<https://twitter.com/beegroundsuva>