

# Bee Campus USA - East Carolina University

Report on 2023

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

A grounds employee came up with an idea in early 2023 to stop mowing large sections near the entry gate to our West Research Campus. We stopped mowing from fall 2022 through fall 2023 in order to see what grew back in place of the turf grass. We really only got some flowering weeds and scrub trees starting to take root. As such, an ECU Biology faculty member and one of her graduate students took core samples from the area we are trying to reestablish as a native pollinator-friendly meadow. They found lots of seeds in the seed bank, so the grounds employee tilled 6 plots that were 10 feet by 40 feet each. The Biology Professor also collected bags of native seeds from plants throughout the WRC property. We then took a group of about 20 volunteers to WRC and planted the collected native seeds in 3 of the 6 plots, leaving the other three unplanted so we can see if just tilling the plots will reintroduce some of the native plant species.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?*

1

*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

20

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

2400

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

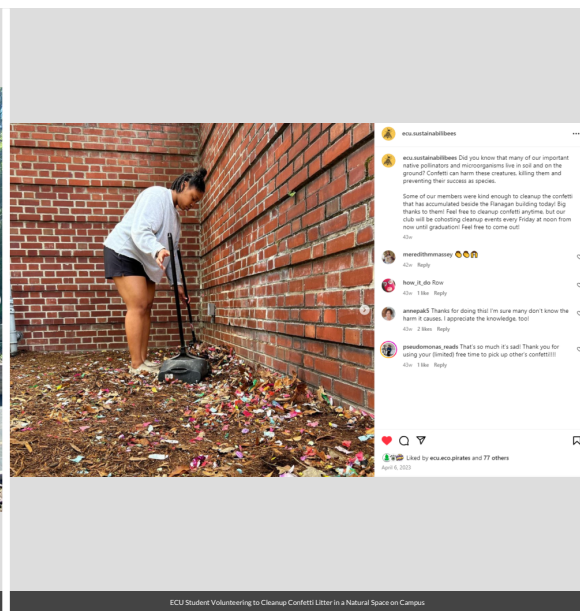
- Meadow
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



ECU Students Planting Native Pollinator-Friendly Seeds at one of the tilled plots at West Research Campus



SustainabiliBEES Volunteer Workshop at the Greenville Community Garden



ECU Student Volunteering to Cleanup Confetti Litter in a Natural Space on Campus

## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

1-6-23: Harvested Campus Beehive Honey with Love A Sea Turtle (5) 1-11-23: SustainabiliBEES Photo Contest (10)  
 1-16-23: SustainabiliBEES Garden Workday (20) 1-24-23: Paint a Pollinator Pot SustainabiliBEES Club Meeting and  
 Event (20) 2-21-23: Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Butterfly Display Setup (150) 3-23-23: DIY Beeswax Chapstick  
 Event (20) 4-6-23: SustainabiliBEES Confetti Litter Cleanup (5) 4-14-23: LWCC Butterfly Hatchings (150) 4-14-23:  
 Tree Campus USA Native Tree Planting (20) 4-15-23: Earth Day of Service at the Greenville Community Garden with  
 SustainabiliBEES (40) 4-19-23: Campus Honeybee Package Installation (30) 4-19-23: Earth Week Trivia with  
 SustainabiliBEES (15) 4-20-23: Earth Day Festival SustainabiliBEES Table (300) 4-26-23: LWCC Butterfly Releases  
 (20) 9-6-22: Get A Clue Festival SustainabiliBEES Table (500) 9-17-23: ECU Beekeeping School (15) 9-19-23: Bee  
 Campus USA Presentation (50) 9-27-23: Grounds Services viewed the "Re:Wild Your Campus" Pollinator Webinar (20)  
 10-7-23: Tar River Community Science Festival Local Youth Engagement (500) 10-18-23: Tea with the Bees Event (50)  
 10-26-22: Campus Sustainability Day with SustainabiliBEES Table (300) 11-19-23: ECU Sustainability Clubs Fall  
 Festival (50)

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?*

22

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

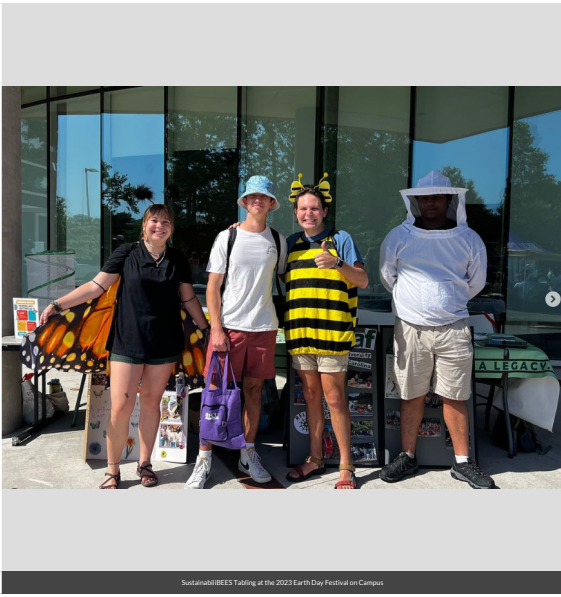
2290

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

2

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2023?

3



SustainabiBEEES Tabling at the 2023 Earth Day Festival on Campus



Make Your Own Brownie Chapstick Event and SustainabiBEEES Club Member Meeting



SustainabiBEEES Club Officers at the 2023 ECU Sustainability Fall Festival at the Greenville Community Orchard

# WILDFLOWER MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT

ECU Grounds Services, the Sustainability Program, and the Biology Department have teamed up to create a wildflower meadow in this location.

By not mowing, this area will return to its native state, producing wildflowers and other plants that create pollinator habitat.



West Research Campus Pollinator Meadow Restoration Project Sign

## Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

*Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.*

The student organization that has done the most work to raise awareness about pollinators and help enhance our campus habitats for pollinators is SustainabiliBEES and it is still part of an ongoing Signature Honors Project. This group has really helped to foster a culture of sustainability on campus. Their work has expanded to raise awareness off

campus as well. The students in SustainabiBEES have gotten certified at the Beginner Level of Beekeeping and hosted beekeeping school by securing the services of a local Master Beekeeper. This past fall, the program had 15 participants learn about Beginning Level Beekeeping. They have also spread this knowledge throughout the community of Greenville by participating in Greenville Community Garden and Orchard Workdays and tabling at events like the Tar River Community Science Festival where they interact with and provide education to local youth.

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

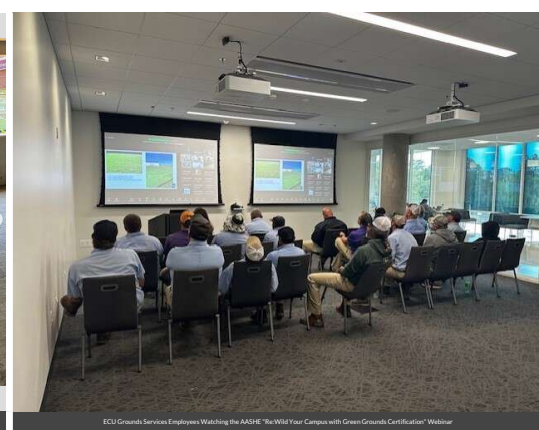
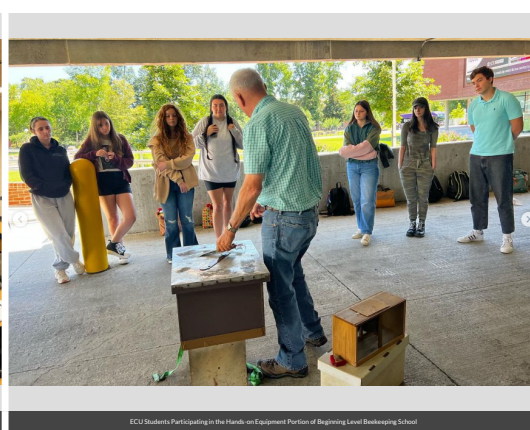
2

*How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?*

20

*Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.*

There were two service-learning projects that students participated in during 2022. First, the students in SustainabiBEES purchased all of the equipment and raised Painted Ladies Butterflies to release on campus. They hosted two events associated with this project. The first event was setting up the butterfly growing kit, naming the caterpillars, and talking about their lifecycle. The second event was a tree planting and butterfly release event during Earth Week in April 2023. Second, students who had taken the Beginning Level Beekeeping classes shadowed the ECU Sustainability Manager during beehive inspections so that they could do their practical and become certified beekeepers.





Leodora Wright Cultural Center Painted Ladies Butterfly Display



Environmental Benefits of Painted Lady Butterflies



ECU Students Completing their Beginner Level Beekeeping Practicum at the Campus Beehives

## Policies & Practices

*Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.*

As stated in our IPM plan, monitoring landscape for pests and diseases is a constant ongoing process for all Grounds employees. ECU Grounds Services staff also look for beneficial insects that may already be working to control pests. The ECU Grounds crew tries not use pesticides near pollinator habitats as a general practice, especially if pollinators are present in an area or adjacent areas that could be affected by drift. Prevention is the first method of our IPM plan, which includes proper cultural and mechanical methods, proper watering, and use of healthy, pest and disease resistant native plant species.

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

Not currently

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*

I arranged a webinar viewing for 20 of our ECU Grounds Services staff members to watch an AASHE webinar called, "Re:Wild Your Campus with the Green Grounds Certification" on September 27, 2023. The staff found the webinar interesting and said they could see the benefits of protecting pollinators and agreed to start implementing some of the practices recommended during the training on our Health Sciences Campus.

*Please check actions you have 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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

No



Full ECU Sustainability Committee including members of our Grounds Subcommittee which covers Tree Campus USA and Bee Campus USA Requirements

---

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [ECU IPM Program.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Nursery List.pdf](#)

<http://sustain.ecu.edu>

[sustain@ecu.edu](mailto:sustain@ecu.edu)

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

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

<https://twitter.com/SustainECU>