Bee Campus USA - Randolph College

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.

Randolph College staff continues regular maintenance and enhancement of pollinator habitats as needed, in addition to this we hosted students to both expand and create new pollinator habitats in 2023. Our Organic Garden and Pollinator Garden were enhanced by staff and students during the spring and fall sessions of our organic gardening class. The Pollinator Garden was also expanded on Earth Day with a new section of native plants added. Herb and vegetable gardens were planted and shared by the community, manual invasive and exotic species removal was performed, trees in our orchard and food forest were pruned to promote healthy growth, and seeds sourced from our gardens the previous year were spread in our meadow and gardens.

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

2

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

25

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

1

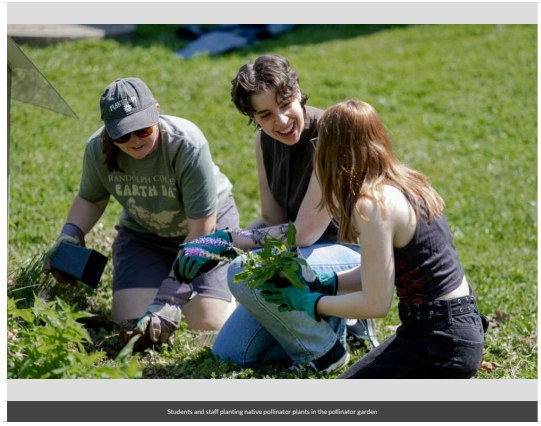
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1000

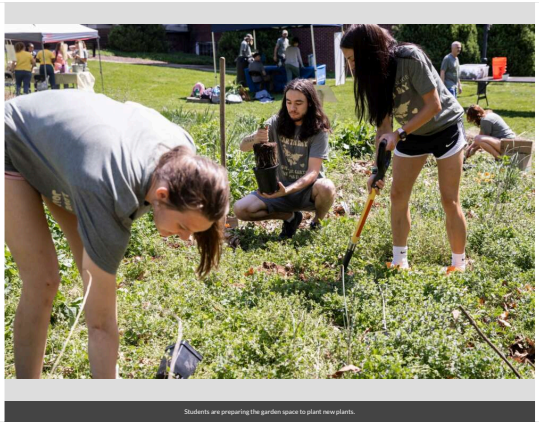
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)

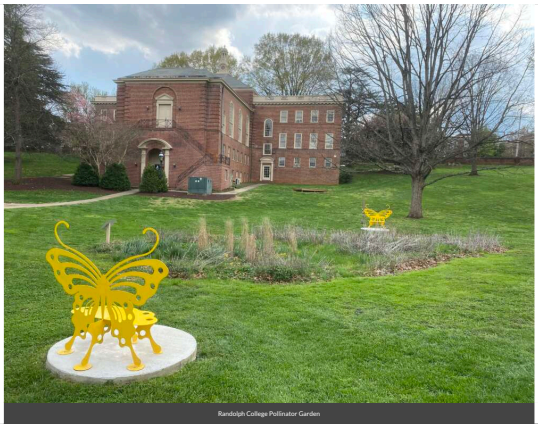
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



Students and staff planting native pollinator plants in the pollinator garden



Students are preparing the garden space to plant new plants.



Randolph College Pollinator Garden

Education & Outreach

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

In 2023, Randolph College hosted our annual Earth Day Celebration where we replenished our campus pollinator garden with new native pollinator plants including milkweed and butterfly weed. An Orchard Tree Pruning Workshop was hosted at our organic garden & orchard, where volunteers worked together to prune apple, plum and peach trees to encourage new growth. In the late fall, volunteers collected seeds from pollinator plants and cut back weeds. In the spring and fall, students work in the organic garden to plant vegetables and pollinator plants as part of the Organic Gardening course.

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

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

150

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

5

Students, faculty and staff work together to replenish our pollinator garden on Earth Day.

Lynchburg Water Resources engages with students at our Earth Day event to educate students about rainwater runoff.

Local community garden & nonprofit Pierce St Community Garden engages with students at our Earth Day Event and educates students about pollinator plants.

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.

Introductory Biology, Evolution, Zoology, Zoology Laboratory, Botany, Botany Laboratory, Economic Botany, Developmental Biology, Ecology, Ecology Laboratory, Animal Behavior, Animal Behavior Laboratory, Principles of Conservation Biology (one-time course by guest faculty), Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Economics, Environmental Science: Systems and Solutions, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues Laboratory, Quantitative Aspects of Global Environmental Problems, Research Design and Geographic Information Systems,Sustainability Principles and Practice, Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Laboratory in Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Environmental Problems: History and Culture, Natural History Collections, Collections Management, Environmental Philosophy, and Organic Gardening (physical education course 0.5 credit offered each semester).

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

2

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

230

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?

15

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

Students and community members had the opportunity to participate in 2 different workdays at our Pollinator Garden. In the fall we hosted a garden clean-up and seed saving workshop. We also hosted a workshop on tree pruning in the organic garden & orchard. Students and community members learned how to properly prune orchard trees. Students in the organic gardening course were able to participate in a winter preparation workday to get the garden ready for the cold weather. The involved students used cardboard and straw to prepare garden beds for winter.

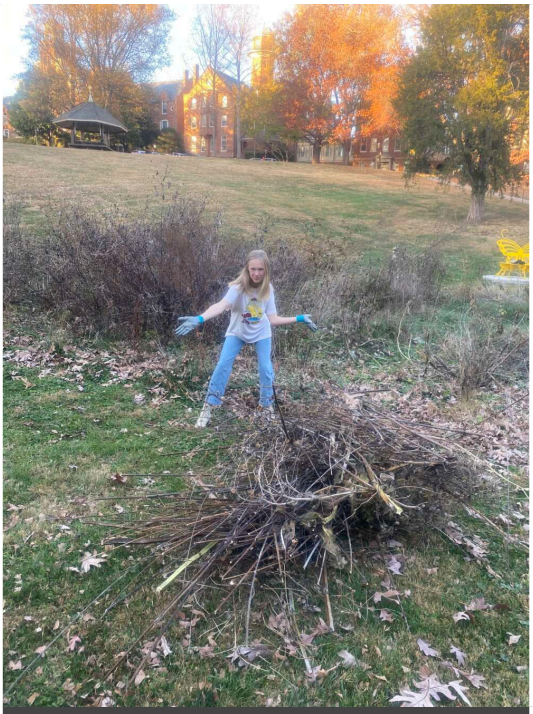
Students in the fall organic gardening class preparing a garden bed.

Spring 2023 Organic Gardening students planting plants in garden plots

The Spring 2023 Organic Gardening class preparing garden beds

Orchard Tree Pruning Workshop

Tree Pruning Workshop



Fall pollinator garden cleanup

Policies & Practices

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

Randolph College has eliminated all pesticide and herbicide use in sensitive locations and on our lawns, due to this elimination the lawns are now a composition of different fescues, clover, dandelion, false strawberry, and other flowering "weeds." The remaining locations where pesticides and herbicides are used are consistent with our written IPM. The lawns also continue to be maintained at a taller height and mowing starts later in the spring to ensure pollinators proper time to overwinter. The community has expressed an interest in learning more about alternative pest control methods; our Organic Garden and Pollinator Gardens are demonstration sites for these practices with hands-on learning experiences. By planting species that attract parasitic insects between and around vegetable plants, we have created a more visually appealing vegetable garden while eliminating the need for pesticide uses. Staff removed trees with Emerald Ash Borer infestations and replaced them with native species including redbud trees and flowering dogwood trees.

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

Not at this time. In the future, our Bee Campus Committee will be advocating to increase the amount of "no mow" zones on campus. The Bee City Committee for the City of Lynchburg expressed interest in providing signage to pollinator gardens around the city.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
Yes, a member of the committee attended a webinar titled Guide to Climate-Smart Gardening with Naturalist David Mizejewski hosted by the National Wildlife Federation. The webinar discussed IPM planning in the current climate crisis.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the 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
- 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
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds 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 using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
No

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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https://www.instagram.com/sustainability_at_randolph
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