

# Bee Campus USA - South Dakota State 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.*

The largest habitat creation project this season was lead by a local student organization and will help to enhance an existing vegetation area with nectar providing plants including native milkweed. This area is just over an acre in a prominent buffer area on the east side of the SDSU campus. We hope to add signage as the flowering plants begin to establish. Other habitat projects were driven by SDSU Facilities & Services including a non-native cat tail riparian area that was removed and replaced with pollinator seed mixes to add diversity to our riparian area. This work was completed in conjunction with a larger storm water infrastructure project. More flowering plants were added to our ongoing pollinator planting around the American Indian Student Center along with more intensive management of early season grasses to help the forbs establish. This long term project has taught us a lot about management and establishment of pollinator plantings.

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

3

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

15

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

2

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

56000

*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)
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Pollinator planting work in progress in May 2023. Photo Credit Tanner Aiken



The same pollinator planting in August 2023. Each year we add more diversity to this area. Photo Credit Tanner Aiken

## Education & Outreach

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

The annual McCrory Gardens Insect festival took place in September 2023 and was open to the public. The event highlighted the importance of insects and especially insect pollinators in our world. The event is educational in nature and caters to young learners and their adults alike. Local experts participate in engagement activities and can answer all kinds of pollinator questions!

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

1

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

523

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

1

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

8



Participants were invited to dress as their favorite insect! Photo Credit Sydney Trio



Photo Credit Sydney Trio

## 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.*

Many for-credit courses are offered at SDSU that incorporate pollinating insects in a meaningful way. Some of these courses, such as Insects in Society and Entomology offer a deeper dive into the role of pollinating insects in our agricultural and horticultural systems. These courses look at the contemporary issue of worldwide insect decline in detail. The importance of native pollinating insects is highlighted in many courses at SDSU and this theme is very important to our mission as a Bee Campus USA affiliate.

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

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

588

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

1

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

7

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

Students representing the Pheasants Forever student chapter volunteered to seed a new pollinator habitat area on the east side of the SDSU campus. The seeding was completed in early spring on top of the snow on a particularly nice March day. The area is free of pesticide use and will be continually improved.



Students load habitat mix seed for hand spreading. Photo Credit Tanner Aiken



Local Pheasants Forever students spreading native forb seed. Photo Credit Tanner Aiken

## Policies & Practices

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

Brookings city promotes No Mow May as an initiative to help early season pollinators.

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

No

*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)
- 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM\\_SDSTATE.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/nativeplant/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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