

# Bee Campus USA - St. Ambrose 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 current pollinator garden was expanded outside of the campus science building, Lewis Hall, and a new wildflower garden was installed at our Every Campus a Refuge site just off campus. Maintenance continued on our campus pollinator gardens, and the campus vegetable garden included pollinator friendly plants, in addition to the typical vegetables.

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

4

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

40

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

4

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

2500

*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
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- School garden



A visitor to our gardens in fall 2023. Credit Dennis Tarasi



Students plant additional garden space in spring 2023. Credit Dennis Tarasi

## Education & Outreach

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

Campus events focused on pollinator conservation engaged a wide swath of the campus and community. The campus environmental club Green Life engages with local elementary and middle school students at a large STEAM event on the St. Ambrose University campus each February. The club members helped children plant native pollinator seeds in small pots, as well as provided them brief informational handouts about their species and the importance of pollinator plants. At a fall campus Sustainability Fest and campus Earth Day celebration, we welcomed 30+ community and campus partners to share information about local conservation efforts. We installed more pollinator gardens around campus and hosted three separate speakers about conservation, regenerative agriculture, and the like. Finally, our environmental studies capstone students presented about projects related to bee conservation.

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

12

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

700

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

4

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

5



A speaker with local conservation non-profit Living Lands and Waters presents to students and community members. Credit Dennis Tarasi



## 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.*

**We host an environmental studies minor, with multiple biology, philosophy and theology courses considering these issues. A Sustainability course in the College of Business and several Masters of Public Health courses also integrate this information. We also host a Sustainability Round Table workshop series that emphasizes regenerative agriculture, conservation, and policy change among its many focal topics.**

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

**6**

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

**200**

*How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?*

**1**

*How many participants attended those courses?*

**200**

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

**8**

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

**100**

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

**Our students maintain our campus garden, hosted and managed with our local Catholic Diocese. Student groups have regularly assisted with community gardens in nearby neighborhoods, and we have assisted other local non-profits with tree planting, tree root wrapping, and weed management initiatives.**



Students attend a training from US Fish and Wildlife Biologist on Rusty Patch Bumblebee Conservation. Credit Dennis Tarasi



Students and faculty remove garlic mustard for the City of Davenport. Credit Amy Blair.

## Policies & Practices

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

Our grounds crew has been very intentional only to apply chemical pesticides with spot spraying in locations near or in buildings, taking care not to spray anywhere near our beehive locations. We continue to coordinate with members of the city public works department regarding their native roots program, which encourages additional care in local neighborhoods.

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*  
Yes, we are low-pesticide already due to cost savings and only spray pesticides where human harms are anticipated.

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*  
Yes, US Fish and Wildlife leaders are training with Rusty Patched Bumblebee conservation.

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

- 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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

People are excited to get involved. Many community members have contacted us when they find out about the Bee Campus.



**SAU**  **Fighting for the Bees  
Pollinator Habitat**

These native prairie plants provide an important habitat for native pollinators like bees and butterflies.

SAU is an official Bee Campus USA! To learn more, visit the following website:

[beecampus.org](http://beecampus.org) 



New pollinator garden signage with information about safe pollinator-friendly practices, installed fall 2023. Credit Amy Blair



Committee Members, representing faculty, staff and students. Credit Dennis Tarasi

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[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)