

# Bee Campus USA - Triton 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.*

During 2023, Triton College completed several projects to enhance pollinator habitats on campus. The Triton College Prairie Garden, home to many native and pollinator friendly plants, received new signage this year. This updated signage contains educational content for visitors to convey the importance of prairies. Visitors are able to now learn more about what plants are in the garden in addition to how they can support pollinators at home. In addition to this project, new construction on student parking lot 3 has brought additional pollinator-friendly habitat to Triton's campus. During the fall, a complete reconstruction of this parking lot included new installations containing mini rain gardens. These rain gardens will contain new plantings of native species in the future with pollinator conservation in mind. These new rain gardens accompany the many mini rain gardens that have already been created at Triton which have been built to include milkweed and various native grasses.

*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?*

40

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

3

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

1400

*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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Rain garden/bioswale

- School garden
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## Education & Outreach

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

During Triton's annual Fall fest, visitors from the community had the opportunity to explore the Triton College Botanical Garden. Visitors were able to learn about the many benefits the garden brings to pollinators and people. Different learning stations were available at the event including a table to build your own sustainably crafted bird feeder. This event also included the opportunity to walk through the adjacent Triton College farm where visitors were able to learn about sustainable farming practices that protect and benefit pollinators. Another event, hosted at the Triton Botanical Garden, invited the Elmwood Park Garden Club. This local organization participates in an annual garden walk in July to admire the peak bloom of flowers and crops. In 2023, Triton College hosted this event for the Garden Club, and invited the the organization to explore the Triton Farm and all the wonderful growth it had on display. This event helped to grow a connection between the Elmwood Park Garden Club and Triton College that will continue to blossom into future events and collaborations.

*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)?*

50

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

3



Visitors create their own sustainable bird feeders at the Triton College Fall Family Fun Fest



Triton College hosted the Elmwood Park Garden club for a tour of the Triton farm and botanical garden.



Bee Campus Interpretive Sign #1 posted in the Triton Botanical Garden



Bee Campus Interpretive Sign #2 posted in the Triton Botanical Garden



New signage at the Triton College Prairie Garden informs visitors about all the amazing things prairies and pollinators offer.

## 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.*

Triton College offered a variety of courses in 2023 that included pollinator-related information. These courses were all offered through the horticulture department. Courses offered through the horticulture department prepare students for a variety of careers in landscape management, food growth, greenhouse operations and more. Through courses such as: Entomology, Plants and Society, and more, students learned the important role that pollinators play in creating healthy ecosystems. Courses also touched on the importance of integrated pest management and the harm that pesticides can cause to pollinators.

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

7

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

96

## Policies & Practices

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

Triton College has maintained its Integrated Pest Management Program which implements several strategies for reducing pesticide use and other harmful chemicals/products. For example, non-chemical devices are utilized to detect pests early and safely. By following an escalation procedure when dealing with pests, Triton College ensures that pesticide use is reduced and eliminated when possible. Triton College recognizes the advantages that come from the use of less-hazardous materials and continuous monitoring to control the threat of pests while prioritizing the protection of pollinators and people.

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

Educational materials provided to the public regarding the Triton College Prairie Garden communicate the importance of integrated pest management. These materials highlight the importance of reducing and eliminating pesticide use in order to protect pollinator populations. In addition to explaining the harm that can come from pesticide use, there is information provided to assist homeowners with implementing alternatives to pesticides.

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

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## Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Anderson Pest Control 1.1 IPM Program.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants at Triton College.pdf](#)

<https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [PM20.pdf](#)

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SOCIETY**  
for Invertebrate Conservation