

# Bee Campus USA - Washington 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.*

Staff in our Center for Environment & Society involved in the Natural Lands Project at Washington College worked on establishing native meadow and riparian plantings at our waterfront campus. Meanwhile, student organizations worked throughout the year to improve the pollinator value of plots at our campus garden, with a particular revival in supporting the soil food food through organics recycling. While our committee supported both efforts, other groups orchestrated them.

*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?*

55

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

2

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

21780

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

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



Students in the Kappa Sigma fraternity helped to expand the pond at the campus garden as a source of water for pollinators. (credit: Shane Brill)



The Compost Club worked on expanding organics recycling to support the soil food web. Throughout the year they advocated for composting to promote resilience for local pollinators.

## Education & Outreach

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

We hosted a permaculture orientation program, a permaculture internship, co-curricular beekeeping 101 class with an emphasis on pollinator advocacy, and our Academy of Lifelong Learning program hosted a community lunch with an expert on pollinators. We also hosted an Arbor Day campus event with informational materials distributed about the benefits of native trees on campus.

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

4

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

100

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

1



Permaculture Interns introduced students to the campus garden to learn how we can design landscapes to provide food and habitat for people and wildlife. (credit: Shane Brill)



Photographer Pamela Cowart-Rickman gave a talk to community members in our Academy of Lifelong Learning about native bees she has documented on campus. (credit: Shane Brill)

## 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.*

**A beekeeping course brought together 10 students to learn the ropes of hive management while becoming empowered as bee ambassadors.**

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

1

*How many participants attended those courses?*

10

*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?*

25

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

**Students from our Kappa Sigma fraternity dedicated a day of service the campus garden, working on expanding the**

pond to provide a reliable water source for pollinators and wildlife in general. We also hosted a Casey Time service day at the campus garden that brought members of the Student Government Association out to improve accessibility of our sanctuary so that more people can visit the site and appreciate the diversity of wildlife supported by permaculture design.



Students in the beekeeping course enjoy tasting fresh honeycomb from the campus apiary. The course uses honeybees as the gateway to understand other important pollinators. (credit: Shane Brill)



The Casey Time service workday brought members of the Student Government out to the campus garden to improve accessibility the space and continue working on the wildlife pond. (credit: Shane Brill)

## Policies & Practices

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

We have continued implementation of a written IPM plan, avoid use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features, eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds, and sourced plants for campus that were not treated with neonicotinoids.

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

No policy initiatives are underway at the moment.

*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)
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds



Shane Brill, Pamela Cowart-Rickman, and Beth Choate (contributed photos)

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM summary.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.washcoll.edu/sustainability/bee-campus-usa/>