

Bee Campus USA - Central Community College

Report on 2024

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

On May 7th we hosted a pollinator garden planting on our Columbus campus. Multiple students came out that day to take part in the activity and together we added new plants to the existing garden. On May 20th we added over 100 more plants to our Ord pollinator garden expansion. This garden has continued to grow thanks to the work of the Ord center staff and the support of the local community. Over summer break our office is busy tending to our many pollinator gardens across the state. During this time our student interns get hands on experience working to maintain the gardens and learning about all of the different plants and insects we care for. This hands on experience gives students the confidence and knowledge to share what they have learned with their peers and community. In September student interns began working on updating all the maps for our different gardens. This activity gives students the ability to flex the knowledge they gained over the spring, summer, and fall working in our gardens. They identified species and location of plants while adding their own creative flair and style to their individual campus maps. Once completed the maps are displayed in our garden signs.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?

3

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

13

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

3

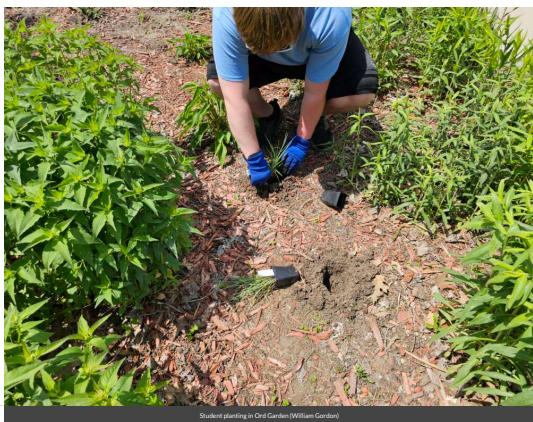
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1757539

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)
- School garden
- Other



Student planting in Orl Garden (William Gordon)



Students planting in Columbus garden (William Gordon)



Orl garden expansion (William Gordon)

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

In our January newsletter we informed readers about the importance of leaving plant material in pollinator areas during their dormant period to protect wildlife and pollinating insects over the winter. During welcome week our office participates in events on all campuses and centers to provide information about resources available to students and to speak with students about our campus pollinator gardens and pollinator related events to get students involved. At our Valentines Day events across our campuses Students 4 Sustainability members offered up native pollinator plant seeds to attendees. During Our Annual Earth Month events held on three campuses and one center we gave out 96 free plants to attendees to start their own gardens at home. Plants included vegetables and flowers including some native perennials started from seeds collected in our gardens. In May we led a tour of our Hastings pollinator gardens for a local women's recovery center. We discussed the importance of native plants and insects, identified plants the group took interest in, and we sent them home with vegetables and flowers to plant in their garden. In October Students 4 Sustainability kicked off its native seed sales. Every year students and interns work in our pollinator gardens to harvest seeds and offer them up to students, staff, faculty, and the community. This not only funds the work our student organization does but it helps us meet our goal of creating pollinator habitat. Since we have limited space on campuses this allows us the opportunity to create habitat in the community. Every December Students 4 Sustainability decorate a tree for a local competition at Stuhr Museum. This year our tree had a pollinator theme where students used repurposed materials to make pollinator tree decorations.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?

13

How many people attended those events (in total)?

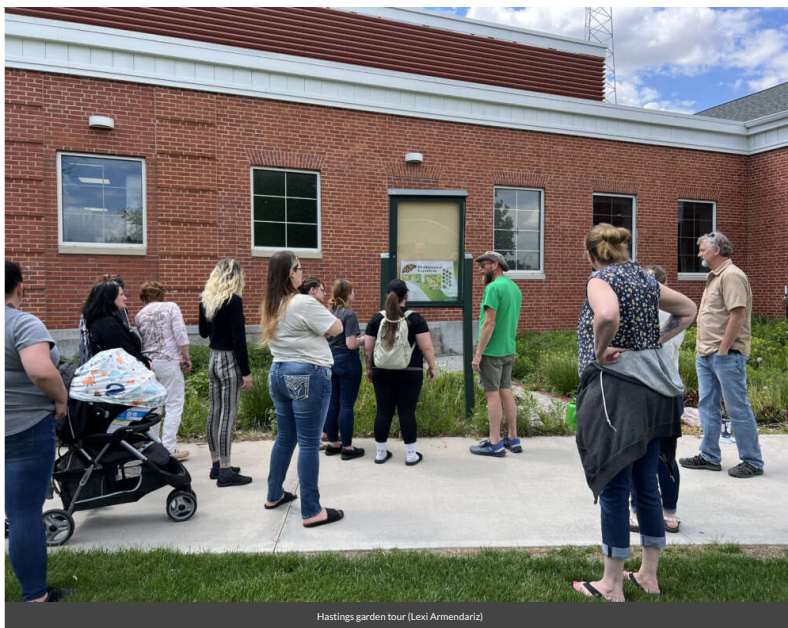
63290

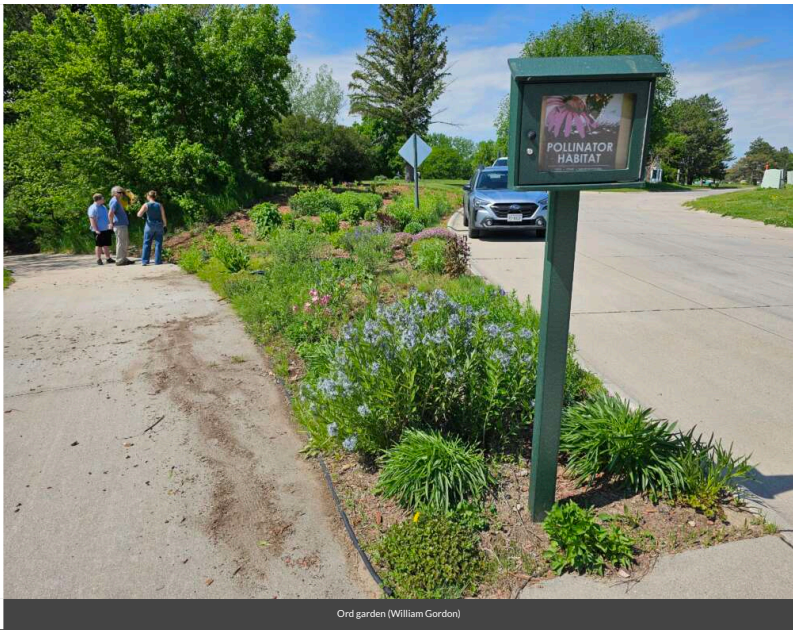
Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

6

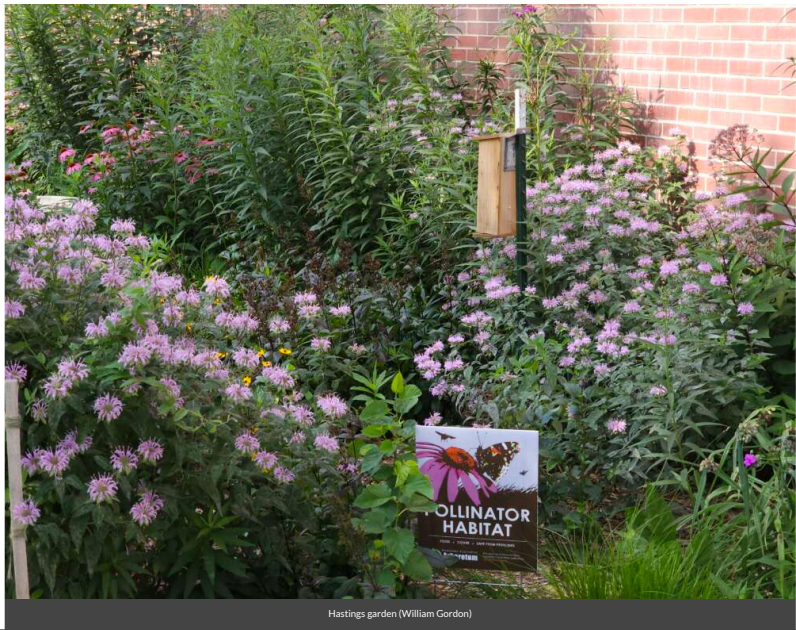
Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2024?

8





Ord garden (William Gordon)



Hastings garden (William Gordon)

Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2024, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.

Central offers a selection of for-credit and continuing education courses that include a range of pollinator inclusive coursework. Some of these courses include Environmental Science, Biology I & II, Plant Management, Principles of Biology, Introduction to Sustainability, Gardening courses, Entomology workshops, and Beekeeping courses to name a few. Additionally, our office strives to furnish all students, regardless of program, extracurricular materials via our website and access to the supplementary e-badging program. While not for credit, students enroll in the program wherein they can obtain a digital accolade that appears on their transcript. The badges requirements are meant to showcase applied knowledge of pollinators and their habitat outside of traditional coursework.

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?

19

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

900

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?

17

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

456

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2024, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

Friday April 21st our director spoke about the benefits of native perennials at an event called Gardening in the Valley in Ord Nebraska. This event is part of a community education course offered at the Ord center. On May 14th our annual Children's Groundwater Festival was hosted on the Grand Island Campus. We helped 5th graders from across the state learn about the importance of groundwater conservation and as always, we promoted the beneficial effects that native plants have on filtering groundwater and preventing erosion. In August our group of interns and students created sustainability focused projects and presented them at the Nebraska State Fair. There were multiple pollinator related projects including how to raise monarch butterflies from larvae, how to create raised garden beds from recycled wood, and how to stratify and germinate seeds of native perennial plants. During this event students and interns also interact with thousands of grade school students from across the state during the largest classroom days at the fair. We use hands on activities to get students excited and interested in pollinating plants and insects and to convey the importance of habitat conservation and creation.

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

4

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

3308



Groundwater Fest (William Gordon)

Policies & Practices

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

Pesticide and herbicide use is not allowed in any of our pollinator habitats. When pesticides and herbicides are used in other areas it is only when necessary and in line with our IPM.

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

No

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
- 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)
- 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

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

[http://Each%20campus%20maintains%20a%20written%20IPM%20plan%20which%20includes%20the%20avoidance%20of%20pesticides%20in%20designated%20pollinator%20habitats%20and%20other%20sensitive%20sites%20\(except%20when%20targeted%20herbicide%20use%20is%20deemed%20the%20best%20option%20for%20invasive%20or%20noxious%20weed%20management%20like%20circumstances%20listed%20above\).%20The%20Grand%20Island%20campus%20continues%20to%20utilize%20non-chemical%20pest%20prevention%20and%20management%20methods.%20Each%20campus%20has%20eliminated%20pesticide%20uses%20that%20are%20solely%20to%20maintain%20aesthetics%20and%20reduced%20the%20number%20of%20sites%20where%20pesticides%20are%20used.%20Additionally,%20we%20have%20continued%20to%20further%20restricted%20the%20pesticides%20used%20to%20organic%20pesticides%20and%20dropped%20pesticide%20use%20altogether%20where%20possible.%20](http://Each%20campus%20maintains%20a%20written%20IPM%20plan%20which%20includes%20the%20avoidance%20of%20pesticides%20in%20designated%20pollinator%20habitats%20and%20other%20sensitive%20sites%20(except%20when%20targeted%20herbicide%20use%20is%20deemed%20the%20best%20option%20for%20invasive%20or%20noxious%20weed%20management%20like%20circumstances%20listed%20above).%20The%20Grand%20Island%20campus%20continues%20to%20utilize%20non-chemical%20pest%20prevention%20and%20management%20methods.%20Each%20campus%20has%20eliminated%20pesticide%20uses%20that%20are%20solely%20to%20maintain%20aesthetics%20and%20reduced%20the%20number%20of%20sites%20where%20pesticides%20are%20used.%20Additionally,%20we%20have%20continued%20to%20further%20restricted%20the%20pesticides%20used%20to%20organic%20pesticides%20and%20dropped%20pesticide%20use%20altogether%20where%20possible.%20)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Plant list.docx](#)

https://plantnebraska.org/file_download/inline/c9385c9d-c453-4e9e-ad39-f0d766ed4810

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://plantnebraska.org>

<http://www.cccneb.edu/pollinators>

