

# Bee Campus USA - Bellarmine University

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.*

**Bellarmino organized six invasive species removal events in 2024, two of which took place on our campus. These were organized by the Bellarmine Center for Community Engagement and the Department of Environmental Studies.**

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

**4**

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

**160**

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

**2**

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

**300**

*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
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Students working on the installation of a rain garden with native plants on our campus.



Monarch caterpillar in one of our more mature native pollinator habitats on campus.

## Education & Outreach

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

**We hosted a monarch butterfly migration lecture with a guest speaker from the conservation educator at the Louisville Zoo. We also attended the Louisville Tree Fest to promote our biodiversity enhancement programs and a Tree Pilgrimage to educate our campus community about our native tree canopy. These were organized by our committee.**

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

2

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

75

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

1



Photo of the 2024 Bellarmine Tree Pilgrimage, an educational walking tour of our native trees.



Matt Lamb, Conservation Education Specialist with the Louisville Zoo showing students a monarch chrysalis following a lecture about the Monarch butterfly migration.

## 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.*

The for-credit courses included biology and environmental science courses that focus on aspects of biodiversity, botany, and ecosystems. The continuing education course was a professional development workshop for teachers entitled the Environmental Stewardship Project. A third of the workshop was dedicated to conveying information about how to install a pollinator garden at their school. All of the teachers took home native plants and some supplies to get them started, including the Xerces Society Gardening for butterflies book.

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

6

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

100

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

1

*How many participants attended those continuing education courses?*

18

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

Students were involved in invasive species removal events at multiple locations off and on campus. Some were there as a part of the ENVS 111: Introduction to Environmental Science and ENVS 151: Understanding Environmental Systems courses, or as a part of our Knights in Action day in service, but others were just there to volunteer.

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?

130



A photo of one of several invasive species removal events, targeting invasive Asian bush honeysuckle.

## Policies & Practices

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

We have worked with the facilities/groundskeeping department to communicate about pest management and over the years have reduced the amount of campus treated by herbicides and pesticides. We have also worked with them to identify areas of campus that can be low-mow or no-mow.

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

We are currently implementing a university-wide sustainability initiative which examines many areas of sustainability action on campus including reduction of pesticide use.

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

Not yet.

*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

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Not yet. Just really appreciate the educational materials supplied by the Xerces society. We've made use of them numerous times.

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## Committee Photo

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [Bellarmine Integrated Pest Management Plans February 2025.docx](#)

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Bellarmine Recommended Native Plants Feb 2025.docx](#)

<https://www.dropseednursery.com/resources/plantlist/>

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

<https://www.dropseednursery.com/>

<https://www.bellarmino.edu/sustainability/>

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