

Bee Campus USA - Blue Ridge 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.

There are several pollinator beds here on campus and our group has been working on two in particular. The ornamental beds that surround our campus greenhouse as well as the campus orchards have been slowly shifted to perennial native plants and every year we discuss why we do not cut them back in the fall in order to allow insect habitat through the winter for eggs, pupae, and larvae.

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

2

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

20

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

1

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

1500

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
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- School garden

Education & Outreach

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

Our horticulture department hosts both a spring and fall plant sale where native plants are now highlighted along with what insects they host and how to be more supportive of those insects. Several hundred people frequent these sales. I also taught a native plant ID class that includes the ecological impact of having robust native populations of plants even in residential environments. We also taught a native seed propagation and saving workshop at our school library where we discussed a variety of practical topics related to native seeds and meadows.

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

4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

300

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

5

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.

We have a full horticulture degree program and it is for-credit. I as the department head am also the one that primarily teaches the continuing education courses, but they are voluntary and open to the general community.

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

12

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

100

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

2

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

20

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

The on-campus horticulture club is working on enhancing one of the pollinator beds on campus that has gotten overgrown.

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

1

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

10

Policies & Practices

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

We do not use any inorganic pesticides in the pollinator beds and almost no pesticides whatsoever in the greenhouse beds and orchard. We have also switched to primarily biological pest control inside the campus greenhouse

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

There are several in our city and we are working on implementing a large meadow restoration on campus as part of a waterway improvement project that would also reduce mowing and chemical usage near that waterway.

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

Yes, in our campus greenhouse we have switched to almost exclusively biological pest management.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

It's not always easy to get things to change so just stay the course!

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [BRCC-Integrated-Pest-Management-Plan_a.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://ncwildflower.org/recommended-native-species/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native-Plant-Nurseries-in-North-Carolina a.pdf](#)

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