

Bee Campus USA - Butler 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.

A 400-volunteer day to plant over 3,000 native plants in the historic Holcomb Gardens restoration. This event replanted 4,800 square feet of original ornamental flower beds that had been covered in turf during the covid-19 pandemic, this event was co-hosted by the President's Office of the Office of Sustainability, of which has membership on the Bee Campus Committee. The Department of Biology faculty and staff, with support from the Office of Sustainability, adopted and reinvigorated an apothecary garden with a portion devoted to native medicinal plants and hosted an Earth Day invasive species removal in the forested areas of campus.

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?

438

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

2

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

5115

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

- Flower garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your

committee hosted them or not.

A 400-volunteer day to plant over 3,000 native plants in the historic Holcomb Gardens restoration. This event replanted 4,800 square feet of original ornamental flower beds that had been covered in turf during the covid-19 pandemic. The university also restored an apothecary garden with a portion devoted to native medicinal plants, hosted a native gardening seminar for faculty and staff, an arbor day tree planting, engaged local youth employment program TeenWorks in caring for native planting areas installed in 2023, presented on agroecology in a health science course titled Local, Sustainable Food Systems, hosted the national Future Farmer's of America on the campus agroecology farm, a farm tour for continuing education, and led an Earth Day invasive species removal in the forested areas of campus (~450,000 square footage not included). These events were hosted or co-hosted by the Office of Sustainability Team, and the Department of Biology of which has membership on the Bee Campus Committee. All planted areas have educational signage and are also a part of a virtual/walking sustainability tour.

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

7

How many people attended those events (in total)?

552

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

8

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.

All courses were for-credit courses, except for one continuing education course that was a 2-hour workshop. Pollinator-related courses were primarily biology plant, conservation, and ecology courses for majors, environmental studies courses and internships, or natural world courses for non-majors as part of the core requirement. There were also two courses in the health sciences department, a well-being course on the campus farm, an ecotheology course, and first year seminars on nature, sustainability, and climate.

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

25

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

585

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

1

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

3

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

Planting of Holcomb Gardens in native plants, invasive species pull, and well-being course on the farm were all service-learning projects.

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

3

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

434

Policies & Practices

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

The University has banned spraying of pesticides and use of synthetic fertilizers in native/no mow areas and has established hand weeding of mulch beds/non-native plantings. The University has also developed its first Integrated Weed and Pest Management Plan.

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

In addition to the University developing its first Integrated Weed and Pest Management Plan, construction and renovation guidelines are being updated to reflect a preference toward native plants, hand weeding, and minimization of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

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

No

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Implement native plantings and natural areas slowly and intentionally to ensure that they can be adequately maintained long-term. Install signage in newly planted native gardens and no mow zones so the broader community understands the what and why of rewilding.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Butler University IWPM Plan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List_2025.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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