Bee Campus USA - Clark 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.

Most of the habitat creation and enhancement activities were done on Clark College property. On campus we sowed seeds in 2024 over three acres of Bee Gardens on campus. With the help of Clark's Grounds department we also roto-tilled areas of Bee Gardens where lawn was encroaching. Also, as part of our biology majors' spring labs, Professor Clark and Bee Campus led a lab that focused on mason bees (Osmia lignaria). Our mason bee labs provide an engaging introduction to the life histories of bees. As part of the labs, students create and hang mason bee nest boxes. Clark students hung and monitored about 20 mason bee nests in 2024. The Vancouver Bee Project invited members of Clark's Bee Campus Committee to join their group as they endeavor to get Vancouver, WA. Certified as a Bee City USA. We don't host those events but we are involved as members and indirectly support the habitat work that Vancouver Bee Project does.

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

8

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

60

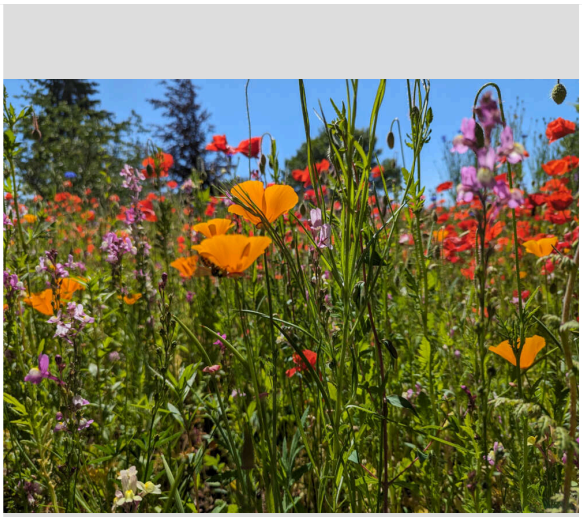
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

130000

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
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

Lawn is removed and flower seeds have been planted:



Pollinator habitat at one of our Bee Gardens:

Several Bee Campus Committee Members sowing seeds:

Education & Outreach

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

The leading means of outreach for Clark College's Bee Campus is having our project manager, Steven Clark, give presentations or Bee Walks to civic groups or other interested groups. Steven Clark is a biology professor emeritus at Clark and gave ten presentations in 2024 to over 350 people. These presentations always feature Bee Campus at Clark College. As an example, in 2024 Professor Clark was a presenter at a wildlife seminar series in April and to two Chambers of Commerce as well. Bee Walks are surprisingly popular. One would think that a Bee Walk would be much harder than say a bird walk, but as Professor Clark walks near flowers, he captures bees in cup-like viewing boxes and shares the bees with participants of the Bee Walk. Everyone gets to see bees up close. To the uninitiated, they are surprisingly colorful and purposeful with their bodies often covered with pollen. In 2024 there were six Bee Walks (not including walks given as part of classes at Clark) with just under 200 participants. Often, the presentations and Bee Walks provide an introduction to bees by shining light on impressive features of bees of which people are unaware. For example, that there are more species of bees in Washington than there are species of birds. That most native bees are solitary and most nest underground. After the introduction, the presentations shift to what Bee Campus does and what other people can do. To wit, create natural habitat with native flowers. Re-think lawns and lawn care. Recognize that bees are valuable, impressive animals and that little behaviors that we undertake can grant a world of benefit to bees. Benefits like leaving open ground for nesting. Leaving dead plants, flowers and even trees so bees can use them for nesting. Benefits like planting native flowers and not spraying bee's habitat. Ultimately, Bee Campus presentations kindle in the audience a desire to make a patch of their yard into natural, bee habitat. Bee Campus allows willing but novice habitat (read "lawn") owners a practical, desired, manageable way to join in the enriching activity of sponsoring

wild bees.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?
22

How many people attended those events (in total)?
600

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?
11

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2024?
10

This is a Bee walk at Clark College for faculty and staff. We're looking at a native bee.

Clark's Early Childhood students are on a Bee Walk and we've stopped to listen to a bee buzz:

Nearby VITA Elementary students visit Clark's Bee Campus and learn about bees:

BEE CAMPUS USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

Signage. [I'll get a better image of our signs with flowers behind them, but this is the kind of signage we have on campus]:

BEE CAMPUS USA™
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

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.

• Biology majors (credit class): o Lecture about the natural history of native bees. o Mason bee lab with retrieval of cocoons, investigations of possible causes of cocoon death, creation of bee nest boxes, hanging and monitoring nest boxes. o Presentation about native bee surveys using a Xerces based linear transect protocol. Subsequently, students do several bee surveys across several weeks both on campus and off. • Biology 100 (credit class): Planning stages in 2024 for a unit in spring 2025. This will entail a mason bee lab similar to that offered to biology majors (above). • Flowering Plants of the Pacific Northwest (credit): Pollinator and Bee Campus lecture. • Bee Walk and Bee Lives (non-credit): Students were given an introduction to the natural history of bees and watched a bee documentary. Later, students went on a bee walk. Here we observed and captured (and later released) bees. Students saw foraging activity, pollen collection on bees, mason bee nests, parasitic bees and of course a variety of different bee species. We were joined on our bee walk with a member of Washington's Bee Atlas team. • The Natural History of Bees (non-credit): This class explored the natural history of bees and also their evolutionary development from ancestral wasps. This is a more science-heavy class that includes a fuller evolutionary explanation for bees' habits and behaviors. At the end of this class, students went on a bee walk to observe behaviors they had learned about in lectures.

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

4

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

110

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

2

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

40

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

None in 2024. However, this question has sparked our interest and we've reached out to the Dean of Student Engagement and to our Teaching and Learning Center to see if there might be synergy between Bee Campus and Service Learning. If we do discover opportunities, we will work to create opportunities that could be in the form of helping with an elementary school field trip, garden maintenance, bee surveys, etc.

BEE CAMPUS USA™
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

Students preparing mason bee nests in a biology lab

Policies & Practices

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

We are in the early stages of developing an integrated pest management (IPM) plan. Anecdotally, the Grounds Department at Clark has an appreciation of the ill effects of pesticides. In 2024 Grounds called Professor Clark to see if he could attenuate to risk of a bumblebee hive in the preschool's playground. This is an example of how Grounds tries to avoid using pesticides when possible. We anticipate submitting a draft IPM plan to Clark College administration before the end of March, 2025.

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

There are at least three significant pro-pollinator initiatives underway in our area in addition to Clark College. All focus on both protecting pollinators from harm and enhancing pollinator habitat. • The Vancouver Bee Project is a grassroots effort that is pursuing Bee City USA certification (they anticipate certification this year). • The Clark Public Utilities Pollinator Project is a vibrant program that promotes pollinator habitat and positive bee outreach activities to the community. • The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a Vancouver based initiative that emphasizes habitat, pollinators and non-toxic management of yards. A similar program but with a smaller footprint in the Vancouver ares is the Habitat at Home program sponsored by Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife. o The Bonneville Power Administration is a big landowner and recently has been recognized for being pollinator aware in their planting. I don't know about their use of pesticides.

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

No. We have several continuing education bee classes but they are focused on bee natural history rather than IPM.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- 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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied

- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- 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:

Recommended Native Plant List: Bee Campus Recommended Plant List (for renewal of certification).docx

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: Native Plant Suppliers.docx
https://www.steeleacres.com/

https://www.clark.edu/about/visitors-guide/bee-campus/index.php
BeeCampuscommitteeProposed@clarkcoll.onmicrosoft.com

BEE CAMPUS USA
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation