Bee Campus USA - Glendale 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.

During the previous renewal period, we did not host any events; however, our committee has received recognition that now counts towards meeting faculty service requirements (effective Fall 2024). To that end, we will be planning a series of events for the next academic year and look forward to reporting on those activities in our next renewal.

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

1

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

2

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

1

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

5

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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- 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.

Inspired by a Michigan State University citizen science study on pollinators, Jackie Witzke designed a similar study here at Glendale Community College. Participants who visited any one of ten different flowering plant sites on campus scanned a QR code to record the number of bees they observed during a three-minute period. After submitting the survey, participants had the option to sit for a follow-up interview about their experience. Interviewees were provided five Likert-type items with which to agree or disagree as the base of the interview, followed by organic commentary. The study revealed both the successes and challenges of bee-focused citizen science projects on a college campus. Such projects are a promising pedagogical tool for experiential learning, particularly on certified Bee Campuses. This was a dissertation study conducted by a member of the committee during Summer-Fall 2024.

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.

Students enrolled in SUS 100 (Sustainable World) and ENV 101 (Introduction to Environmental Science) learned about pollination through direct and indirect engagement. In SUS 100, students read an excerpt from Fruitless Fall and then conducted an analysis of their food consumption. They divided items into those requiring pollination and those not. They then answered reflection questions on the importance of pollinators in their individual lives. In ENV 101, students toured a nearby xeriscape garden to learn about native plants that conserve water and attract wildlife, including pollinators. Both courses are for-credit.

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

3

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

110

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

During the previous renewal period, we did not host any events; however, our committee has received recognition that now counts towards meeting faculty service requirements (effective Fall 2024). To that end, we will be planning a

series of events for the next academic year and look forward to reporting on those activities in our next renewal.

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.
Our pest management plan hasn't changed in the past year. Currently, several pest management personnel on campus receive regular training in IPM. We continue to apply limited pesticides only as a last resort. We prefer to rope off areas affected by swarms and give them 48 hours to disperse before taking more invasive measures.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
The Maricopa Community College District (MCCD) is working collaboratively with local school districts to create a pollinator pathway across Maricopa County. GCC is a participating college and includes a Native Seed Library where community members can receive free seed packets to create their own pollinator-friendly garden at home.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
During the previous renewal period, we did not host any events; however, our committee has received recognition that now counts towards meeting faculty service requirements (effective Fall 2024). To that end, we will be planning a series of events for the next academic year and look forward to reporting on those activities in our next renewal.

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)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
There are a lot of concerns about bees (in particular) so it can be difficult to convince campus leadership to welcome them onto campus. Most individuals are in favor of native plantings, reduced pesticide use, and other interventions that promote pollinator health, but they are also concerned about coming into contact with insects that can sting, especially as Arizona is a natural breeding ground for Africanized honey bees. A lot of education has to accompany planning to make projects successful long-term.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: