

Bee Campus USA - Indiana State 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.

All currently established pollinator habitats were maintained as part of routine campus landscape management practices. The Food Forest Program pollination gardens were enhanced and expanded, our orchard understory was sown with native prairie grasses and wildflowers, providing 9,000 square feet of forage and shelter habitat, and two honeybee hives were added. Worked with local city parks to enhance the Native American Heritage Garden and performed several weed wrangles aimed at reducing invasives and promoting the growth of native plant species. Continued enhancing the landscape around the Sycamore Solar Leaf.

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

5

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

35

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

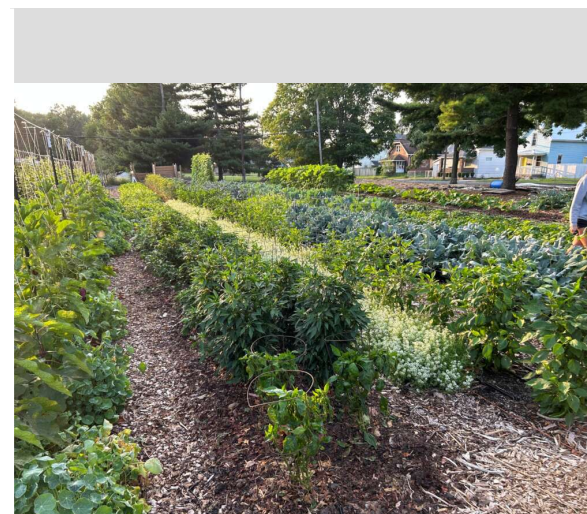
2

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

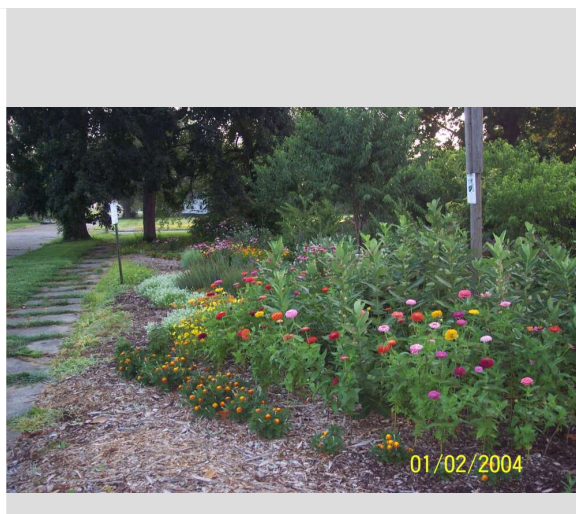
60000

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
- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



ISU Sycamore Food Forest Market Garden



ISU Monarch Waystation Garden



Pollinator Garden

Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, Indiana State University's Office of Sustainability hosted several educational and outreach events aimed at raising awareness of invasive plant species, the importance of native plant species, and the importance of pollinators. These events included our 17th Annual Earth Day Celebration, 3rd Annual Sycamore Food Forest Fall Festival, Bat Fest festival, Conservation Days, K-8 summer camps, weed wrangles and community garden events.

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

5

How many people attended those events (in total)?

750

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

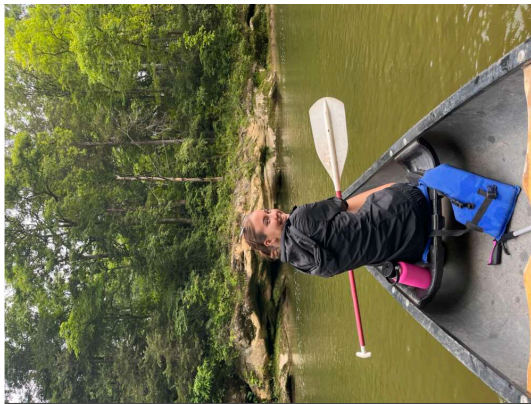
4

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

4



Aris Farm Weed Wiping



River clean-up



2024 Earth Day Celebration



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.

(1) Biogeography and (2) Conservation & Sustainability of Natural Resources is the main class that incorporates pollinator teaching. They visit the community garden and various other native garden and pollinator locations in the community. (3 Credits each) SURE summer symposia at the end of the summer 2024. The students that participated in the summer research program presented their research in the pollinator gardens and locations to faculty, staff, students, and community members. (Continuing Ed.) Center for Student Research and Creativity Fall Symposium at the beginning of fall 2024. The students that participated in the summer research program presented their research in the pollinator gardens and locations to faculty, staff, students, and community members. (Continuing Ed.) Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) included a course about gardening practices, tree pruning and composting. (Continuing Ed.) Bluestem summer internship is an experiential – learning course for students to learn about regenerative agriculture through hand-on experience and service – learning events. (3 credits) Sustainable Food Production – experiential – learning course for students to learn about various food productions methods – soilless culture, mycology, plant and soil ecology, and agriculture. (3 credits)

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

6

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

1419

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

3

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

34

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

Bluestem Summer Internship – In the summer of 2024, students participated in a weed wrangle to remove Japanese bush honeysuckle, burning bush, and multiflora rose. They also participated in a river clean up with Vermillion Country Soil and Water and worked on a local organic farm, learning how to grow food sustainably. SURE-2024 Summer

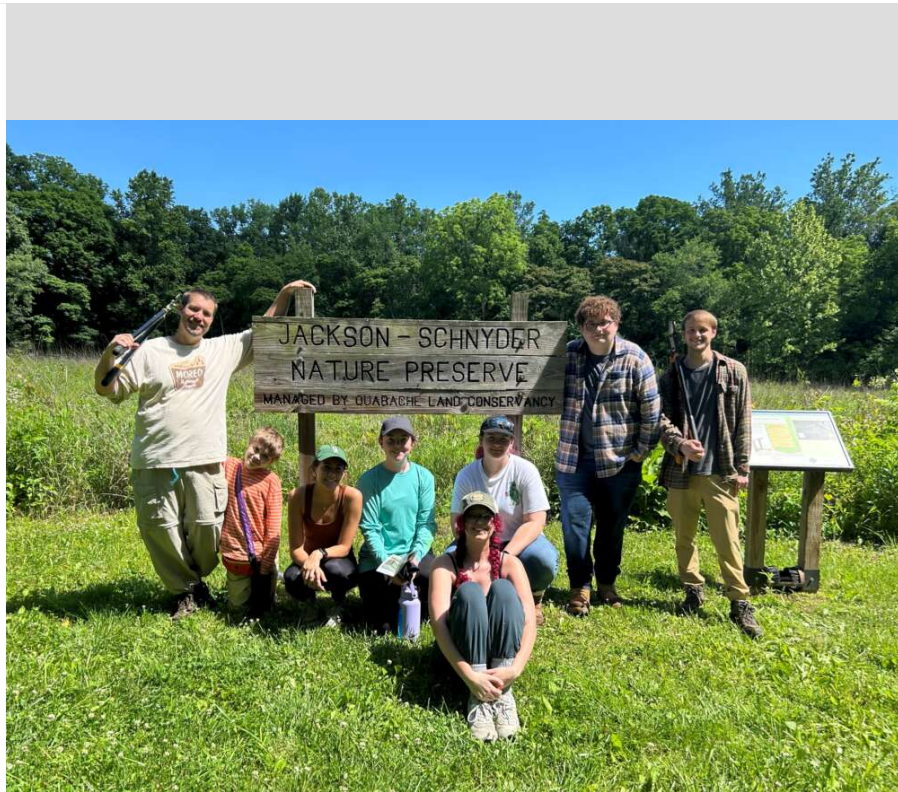
Undergraduate Research Experience students used iNaturalist to identify pollinators, their habitats, and other wildlife at the ISU Community Garden, ISU Food Forest, St. Mary of the Woods organic farm, a conventional farm in the Otter Creek watershed as part of an ongoing biodiversity research project. Sycamore Food Forest Fall Festival seed bombs – During our annual fall event kids were taught how to make seed bombs and then help us sow an area using the seed bombs that they made. Participates were also able to take seeds or seed bombs home. Also, they played a pollination game explaining how pollination worked and got to perform their own bee dance. Donaghy Day – Incoming freshman day of community service. Students help area organizations with a wide variety of tasks including minor construction projects, trash pickup, planting and mulching flower beds, etc.

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

6

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

1109



Bluestem 2024



Sustainable Food Production student displaying semester project



Student helping on a local farm



Students mulching around the Solar Leaf

Policies & Practices

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

Wherever possible, the preferred method is to use biological controls or natural substances for controlling pests, plant diseases, and weeds on campus, when natural diversity planning has failed. This allows us to limit the type and quantity of chemical and other less desirable controls. Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List — <https://www.indstate.edu/university-engagement/sustainability>

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

Wabash Riverfront Development Project

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
ISU Grounds Dept. staff regularly attend professional development and training opportunities pertaining to sustainable landscape practices.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Regenerative agricultural methods and how they promote biodiversity

Committee Photo



Committee photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM PLant Health Care ISU.pdf](#)

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

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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