Bee Campus USA - Indiana University Kokomo

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.

We undertook a significant transformation of our ecological restoration areas, leading to the university's recognition as a Sustainable Campus by the Indiana Wildlife Federation—one of only five campuses in the state to achieve this certification. Through a combination of native plantings, invasive species removal, and habitat restoration efforts, we expanded pollinator-friendly spaces across campus, with a particular focus on Sustainability Meadow and other key green spaces. These enhancements included the addition of diverse native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs to provide essential foraging resources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The restoration work also emphasized soil health, water conservation, and the re-establishment of natural ecosystems, ensuring a long-term impact on biodiversity. Our committee is part of our Office of Sustainability and coordinates with the Student Sustainability Council. They all work in tandem for these projects.

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?

124

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

5

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

14000

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

- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting

- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale

Education & Outreach

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

We hosted a series of native plantings and invasive species removal events as part of our ongoing commitment to pollinator conservation and habitat restoration. Many of these activities took place in Sustainability Meadow, the designated habitat for our campus honeybee colonies. Volunteers, including students, faculty, and community members, participated in planting native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees to expand foraging resources for bees and other pollinators. Invasive species such as honeysuckle and garlic mustard were carefully removed to ensure that native flora could thrive. These efforts not only enhanced biodiversity and improved pollinator health but also reinforced our Bee Campus commitment by engaging the community in hands-on conservation work that directly benefits our ecosystem. (NOTE: I included links to articles written about these efforts, as well as two Flickr album links, in the final section for photo uploads. You may use these and credit the photographer, if you would like.)

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

8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

124

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

2

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.

I don't have access to that information.

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

Same as above; please see previous descriptions. ARTICLE: https://news.iu.edu/kokomo/live/news/35895-campus-sustainability-efforts-earn-distinction ARTICLE: https://news.iu.edu/kokomo/live/news/35528-environmental-impact-focus-of-annual ARTICLE: https://iuknews.org/1423/showcase/birds-bees-and-beyond-a-recap-of-sustainability-week/

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?
8

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?
124

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.
There is no pesticide use in our ecological restoration areas. We follow IPM practices, focusing on manual removal of invasive species and the use of mulch and native ground cover to suppress weeds naturally.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?
We are not aware of any.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?
No.

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

- 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)
- 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)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?
The importance of service-learning in fostering long-term engagement and meaningful environmental impact. By integrating hands-on restoration work into coursework and volunteer opportunities, we have seen greater student investment in sustainability initiatives. Service-learning projects such as native plantings, invasive species removal, and pollinator habitat creation, not only enhance our campus environment but also provide students with practical skills in

conservation, land management, and environmental advocacy.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: Integrated Pest Management Plan.docx
https://protect.iu.edu/environmental-health/public-environment/pest-management.html
Recommended Native Plant List: Recommended Native Plant List.pdf
https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/POL-6/POL-6.pdf
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: Native Plant Supplier.docx
https://brehobnursery.com/