

Bee Campus USA - Inver Hills 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.

For the annual Day of Service, we partnered with the Biology Department for a Buckthorn Removal project on campus. 30+ volunteers helped cut down and remove this invasive species that harms plants and pollinators. In April and November, we hosted events to plant MNL native pollinator seed mix in containers for outside winter seeding. In spring, we transferred the germinated seeds to planter boxes for continued growth. In summer, we moved the plants to the ground to our new Pollinator Patio. This is a new initiative and we hope to continue to expand the plants in this area year over year with native perennials. This is also where our only permanent sign is located. In the fall, we collected native seeds and also removed seed heads from invasive mullein plants on roughly 2-acres 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?

100

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

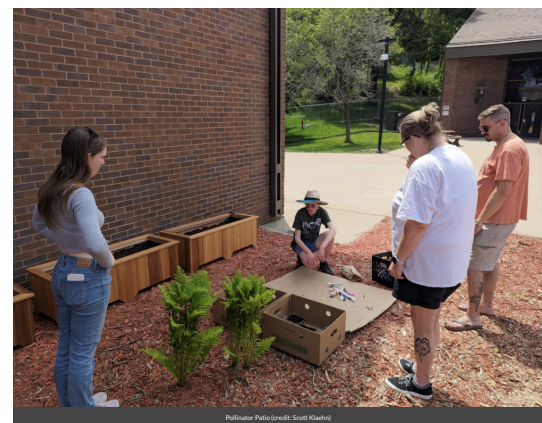
2

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

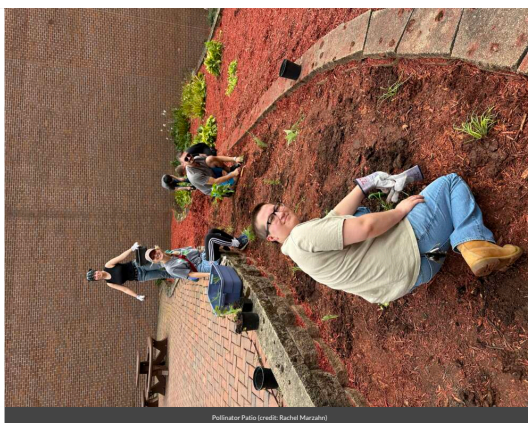
150000

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

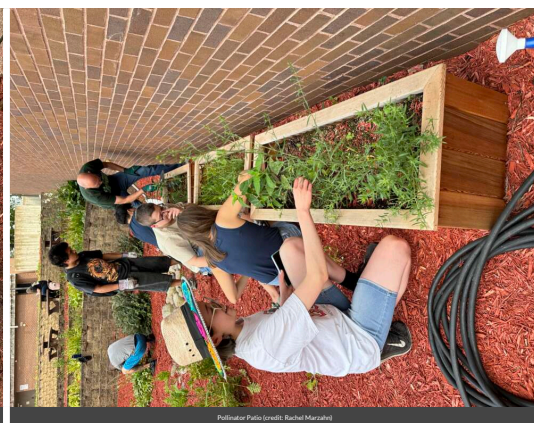
- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Pollinator Patio (credit: Scott Klahn)



Pollinator Patio (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



Pollinator Patio (credit: Rachel Marzahn)

Education & Outreach

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

For outreach, we tabled at four campus fairs. At these events, we passed out educational materials, played pollinator trivia, passed out seed packets, and recruited more members. We hosted the University of Minnesota Bee Lab for a session at our Annual Research Conference. Attended 3 educational events put on by Xerces Society (webinar, fair, and informational session). Campus hosted a Climate & Social Justice Discussion Series and associated book club to read and discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Inver Hills Community College introduced new bee mascot and received press regarding Bee Campus USA and pollinator conservation in Inver Hills News and Star Tribune.

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

18

How many people attended those events (in total)?

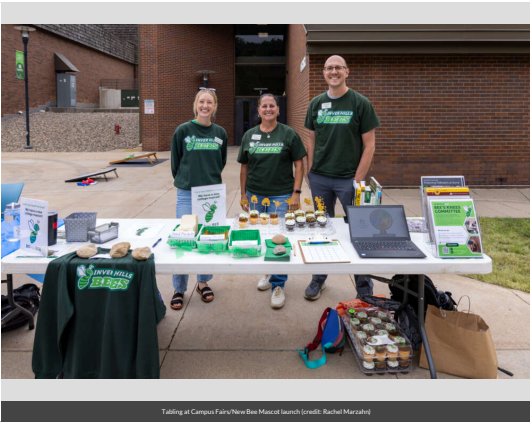
300

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

1

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

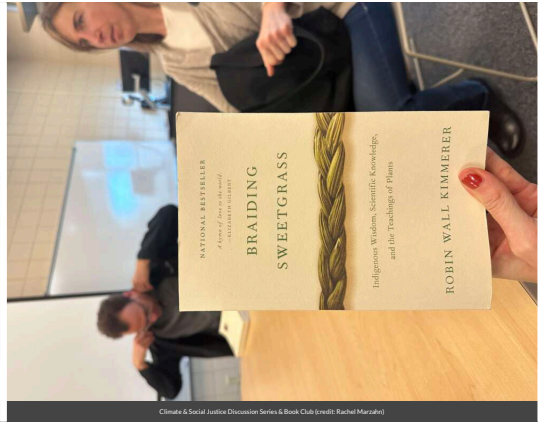
15



Tabling at Campus Fair/New Bee Musical launch (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



U of M speaker at Annual Research Conference (credit: Chris Hayes)



Climate & Social Justice Discussion Series & Book Club (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



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.

Inver Hills Community College offers Environmental Science (Biology 1117) and Introduction to Climate Change (NSCI 1110).

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

2

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

250

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

We hosted two service-learning projects to remove invasive species on our campus, buckthorn and mullein. We also hosted four service learning projects to germinate native seed mixes into full bloom to be planted into our new Pollinator Patio.

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?

60



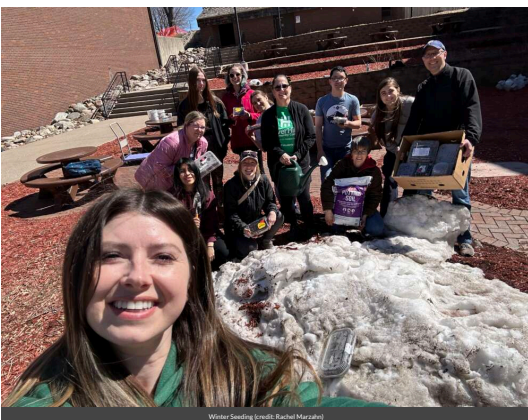
Backthorn Removal (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



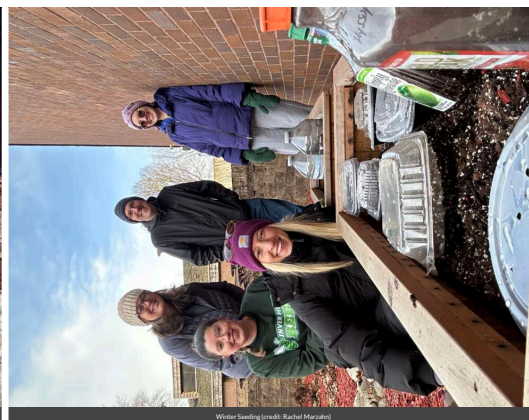
Backthorn Removal (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



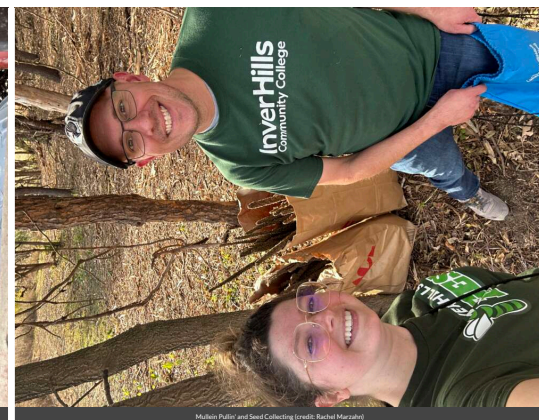
Backthorn Removal (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



Winter Seeding (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



Winter Seeding (credit: Rachel Marzahn)



Mulch Pull and Seed Collecting (credit: Rachel Marzahn)

Policies & Practices

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

We attended a webinar put on by the Xerces Society to better understand IPM so we could start planning for our campus, which currently doesn't have a plan. We asked campus members to take the pollinator protection pledge as part of the Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign.

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

Nothing new this year.

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

We attended the IPM Toolkit webinar hosted by the Xerces Society.

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)
- 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

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

When it comes to engagement and involvement, patience and persistence pays off.

Committee Photo



There are 30 Bee's Knees Committee Members (not all present, photo credit Rachel Marzahn)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

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

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

<https://www.inverhills.edu/about/bee-campus-usa/>
rmarzahn@inverhills.edu