Bee Campus USA - Portland 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.

Last year, a member of the committee who is also a Environmental Studies faculty member, hosted a project with their ESR 204 students helping the Rock Creek grounds plant native shrubs, brushes, and sedges around the stormwater detention pond. It was also an exercise in using GIS in the field to map environmental data. This group planted and mapped about 280 plants over about 0.8 acres. At Sylvania and Cascade campuses members of our committee hosted nest cleaning and hive building events for our on-campus native bee homes and for traveling pollinators. The nest cleaning events took place inside a high-traffic campus building to inform students of our efforts and to engage more people.

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

18

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

350

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

4

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

48800

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
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement

- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden

New pollinator garden planting party at Cascade Campus.

Education & Outreach

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

We had a great year of activities and events with twelve different events and almost all of them being committee-hosted. Throughout the year, our committee hosted a variety of pollinator-specific events in partnership with the on-campus Learning Gardens. Some of our favorites were installing a new pollinator garden at the Cascade Campus and a gardeners party at Rock Creek Campus. In May, PCC students and committee members co-hosted a work party to plant a new pollinator-specific garden within the Cascade Campus Learning Garden. This event was well attended and the supplies were all grant funded by students. The gardeners party in October was such a hit, bringing in about 40 students, staff and faculty. Committee members and volunteers led attendees through a variety of hands-on garden activities, including a build your own mason bee home activity. People loved that so much, that we continued to host that activity at smaller tabling fair events. Our continued on-campus partnership with Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA), has been very fruitful. The representative on our committee helped to host numerous events at our Rock Creek Campus with over 250 attendees throughout the year. In June, they hosted an event entitled “WCMGA Open Garden: Invertebrates AND Vertebrates.” This event was open to the community with hands-on bee-related activities for the whole family. Held in the Rock Creek garden, volunteers managed different booths with educational and fun activities about pollinators.

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

17

How many people attended those events (in total)?

460

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

20

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

4

All About Bees WCMGA event, free and open to the public with 168 attendees.

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New sign in the Cascade Learning Garden with the Bee Campus logo.

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.

The Landscape and Technology (LAT) program hosted 13 courses throughout the year that included bee-friendly habitat evaluations, maintenance techniques, effects of pesticides and general beekeeping teachings. These courses included course subjects like Beekeeping, Sustainable Landscaping, and Plant Establishment and Maintenance. The Environmental Studies department also held one ESR 204 courses in 2024 that focuses on restoration and native/pollinator friendly planting practices. In total, these courses had about 160 students. WCMGA hosted their annual "Raising Mason Bees" class where 43 attendees learned what mason bees need and how to attract them to your area. This class was hosted at the Rock Creek Campus with a focus on educating the community. Additionally, PCC has a Beekeeping Backyard Beginning community education course that fills up each term. This continuing education course had 100 students throughout the year.

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

14

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

160

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

4

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

100

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

There were various service-learning projects that were connected with courses in 2024 that engaged nearly 340 students. There were two key habitat installation events where 38 Landscape and Technology (LAT) students converted 3000 sq ft of rye grass and ornamental shrub to herb-de-lawn and flowering perennials for pollinator support. These two projects were associated with LAT 102 in spring term. The Habitat Restoration Team at Sylvania Campus also hosted many work parties on campus to teach Botany students and club members about native planting, the importance of weeding and maintaining pollinator habitat in an urban environment. In May they completed a

project to plant 5 flats of native herbaceous plants and sword ferns, and a few larger shrubs. This project brought together 29 students and was in partnership with the Watershed Resource Center and the Tryon Creek Watershed Council.

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?
11

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?
137

ESR 204 students at Rock Creek campus planting native shrubs, brushes, and sedges around the stormwater detention pond.

Policies & Practices

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

In December, a committee member who works with the Planning and Capital Construction department at PCC, worked with 30 of their colleagues to finalize an update to the college's Landscape Design Standards & Specifications. These are technical documents supporting capital projects and other campus improvement projects that were updated this year with ecologically informed landscape design practices including the use of native plants, plants that support pollinators, and best practices for designing for healthy plant communities.

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

We updated the college's Landscape Design Standards & Specifications in 2024.

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

Not this year.

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

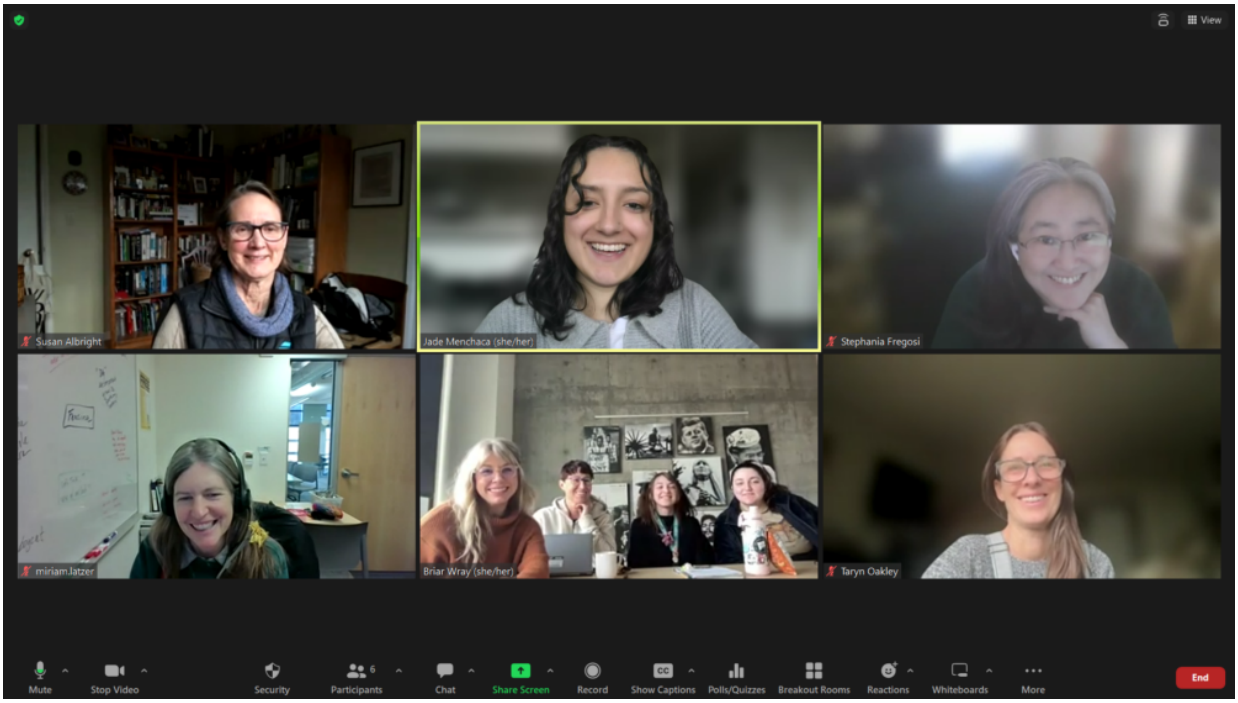
- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- 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)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Pollinator habitat signage at Sylvania Campus that talks about our areas that are protected from pesticides.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

We learned that this work requires robust collaboration with multiple campus departments and groups.

Committee Photo



About half of committee members in a virtual committee meeting.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:
https://www.pcc.edu/facilities-management/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2019/01/integrated-pest-management_Oct_2015.pdf
Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

https://www.pcc.edu/sustainability/on-campus/rock-creek/bees/
sustainability@pcc.edu

https://www.instagram.com/pcclandscapetechnology/?hl=en

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