

Bee Campus USA - Randolph 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.

Randolph College staff continues regular maintenance and enhancement of pollinator habitats as needed, in addition to this we hosted students to both expand and create new pollinator habitats in 2024. Our Organic Garden and Pollinator Garden were enhanced by staff and students during the spring and fall sessions of our organic gardening class. The Pollinator Garden was also expanded on Earth Day with a new section of native plants added. Herb and vegetable gardens were planted and shared by the community, manual invasive and exotic species removal was performed, and seeds sourced from our gardens from the previous year were spread in our meadow and gardens. This fall students helped remove dying orchard trees in the organic garden. The space where our orchard used to exist will be turned into an edible food forest. A pollinator corridor will be established with native pollinator plants and milkweed. This project will be completed by next fall, and we hope to report on the progress in next year's Bee Campus report.

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

2

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

30

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

2

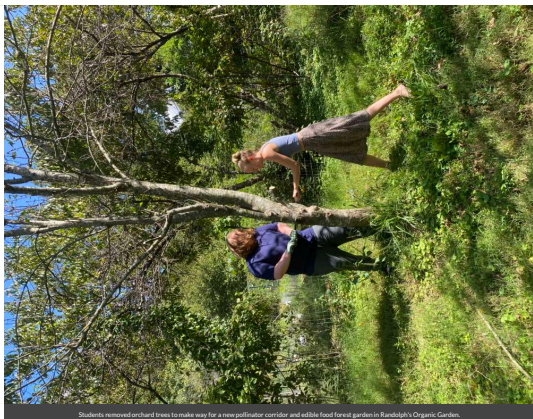
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1000

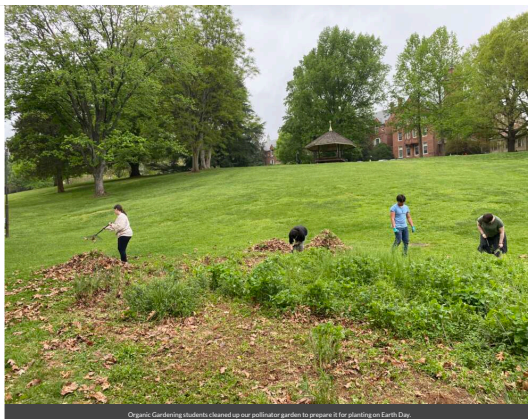
Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Herb garden

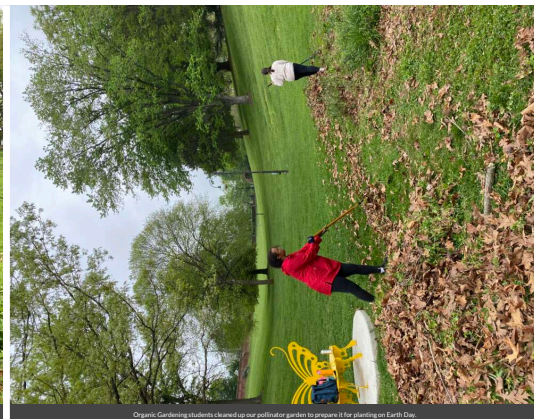
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- School garden



Students removed orchard trees to make way for a new pollinator corridor and edible food forest garden in Randolph's Organic Garden.



Organic Gardening students cleaned up our pollinator garden to prepare it for planting on Earth Day.



Organic Gardening students cleaned up our pollinator garden to prepare it for planting on Earth Day.

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, Randolph College hosted our annual Earth Day Celebration where we replenished our campus pollinator garden with new native pollinator plants including milkweed and butterfly weed. Local environmental groups attended our Earth Day Celebration to provide educational outreach to the campus community. The Virginia Department of Forestry, Lynchburg Parks and Recreation, Lynchburg Water Resources Department and a local plant shop attended our event and engaged with students. In the spring and fall, students worked in the organic garden to plant vegetables and pollinator plants as part of the Organic Gardening course. Students spread milkweed seeds, planted pollinator friendly flowers and herbs, and learned about the importance of creating safe habitats in gardens. In addition to campus projects, Randolph College students and professors collaborated with a local high school to create an edible food forest garden on their property. The school's new garden included a pollinator garden that Randolph College students grew at our campus greenhouse. There were about 200 high school students that participated in the garden planting day in April at E.C. Glass Highschool in Lynchburg.

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

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?

100

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

5



Randolph College student planting flowers in the pollinator garden on Earth Day.



Randolph College students planting plants in the Pollinator Garden on Earth Day.



Student receives a free houseplant at our Earth Day Celebration



Pollinator Garden sign

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.

Introductory Biology, Evolution, Zoology, Zoology Laboratory, Botany, Botany Laboratory, Economic Botany, Developmental Biology, Ecology, Ecology Laboratory, Animal Behavior, Animal Behavior Laboratory, Principles of

Conservation Biology (one-time course by guest faculty), Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Economics, Environmental Science: Systems and Solutions, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues, The Ecosphere and Environmental Issues Laboratory, Quantitative Aspects of Global Environmental Problems, Research Design and Geographic Information Systems, Sustainability Principles and Practice, Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Laboratory in Climate Dynamics and Global Change, Environmental Problems: History and Culture, Natural History Collections, Collections Management, Environmental Philosophy, and Organic Gardening (physical education course 0.5 credit offered each semester).

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

20

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

230

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

This year students were engaged with on campus and off campus service-learning projects. Students in the environmental science courses collaborated on a service project to establish an edible food forest at a local high school. This project was a collaboration between local government environmental agencies, Randolph College, University of Lynchburg and the public school district. The fall and spring organic gardening students revitalized the pollinator garden on our campus. The garden was cleaned up and new plants were planted on Earth Day. Organic Gardening students also removed dying trees in the campus orchard and created a new garden plan for this year.

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

3

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

50



Organic Gardening students cleaned up our pollinator garden to prepare it for planting on Earth Day.



Off campus service learning project at E.C. Glass High School. An edible food forest and pollinator corridor was created. Photo Credits to VDOF



Randolph College students are pictured with a Virginia Department of Forestry employee at the Edible Food Forest Garden at E.C. Glass Highschool

Policies & Practices

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

Randolph College has eliminated all pesticide and herbicide use in sensitive locations and on our lawns, due to this elimination the lawns are now a composition of different fescues, clover, dandelion, false strawberry, and other flowering “weeds.” The remaining locations where pesticides and herbicides are used are consistent with our written IPM. The lawns also continue to be maintained at a taller height and mowing starts later in the spring to ensure pollinators proper time to overwinter. The community has expressed an interest in learning more about alternative pest control methods; our Organic Garden and Pollinator Gardens are demonstration sites for these practices with hands-on learning experiences. By planting species that attract parasitic insects between and around vegetable plants, we have created a more visually appealing vegetable garden while eliminating the need for pesticide uses. Staff removed trees with Emerald Ash Borer infestations and replaced them with native species including redbud trees and flowering dogwood trees

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

Not at this time. In the future, our Bee Campus Committee will be advocating to increase the amount of “no mow” zones on campus. The Bee City Committee for the City of Lynchburg expressed interest in providing signage to pollinator gardens around the city. Our committee did participate in two volunteer opportunities with Lynchburg Water Resources. We helped mark storm drains with templates that educated the public about litter prevention. We also worked with them to pick up trash at a local park. These volunteer opportunities helped us collaborate with this city agency that helps keep our waterways clean.

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

We did not participate in any continuing education opportunities this year.

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)
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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