

Bee Campus USA - Raritan Valley 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.

The interns in the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) maintained the campus rain garden, sensory garden, vegetable garden, and native plant beds throughout the year. These gardens are all planted with native species and provide habitat for pollinators. All of these gardens use no pesticides or herbicides. The Environmental Club had workdays where students removed invasive plant species from the campus and did a litter pickup volunteer event. These were not hosted by the committee.

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

4

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

15

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

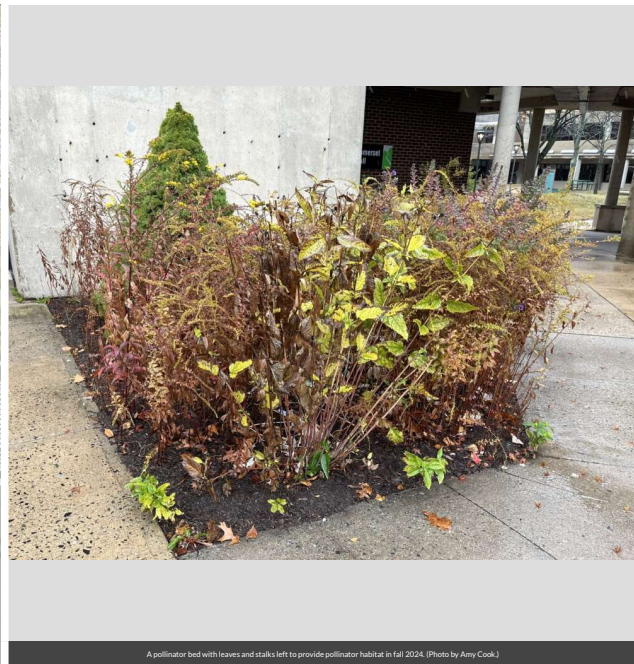
4

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

5600

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
- 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
- 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.

In 2024, the Environmental Sustainability Committee created an educational poster and displayed it across campus in the fall. This outreach encouraged the community to leave leaves and garden debris in order to provide habitat for pollinators over the winter.

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

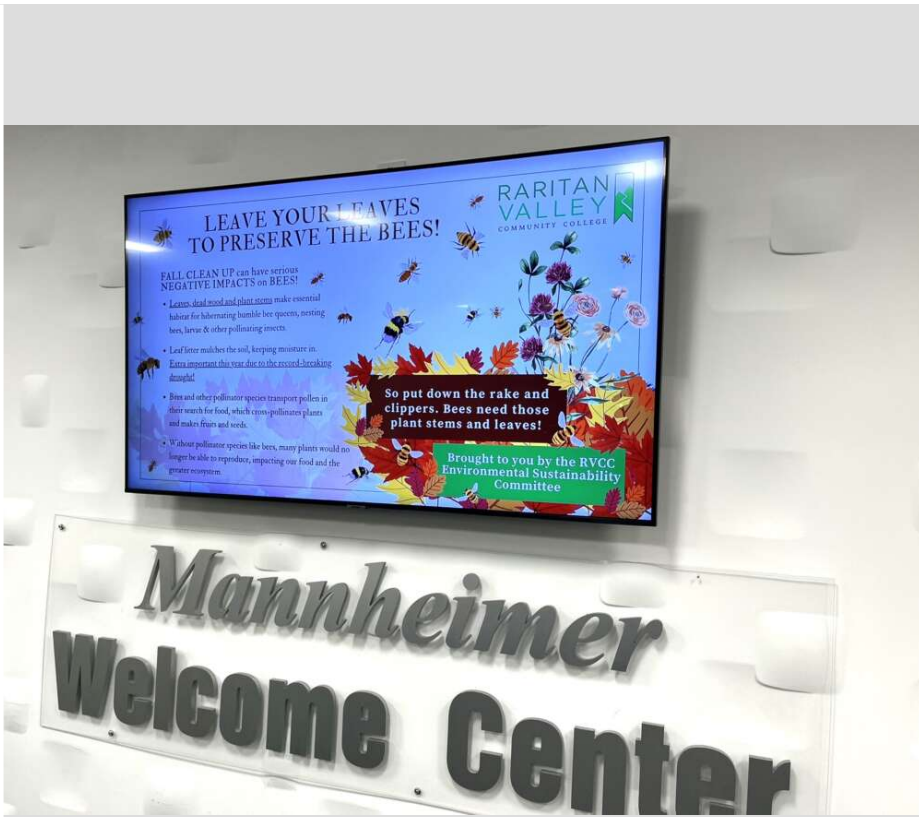
1

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

3

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

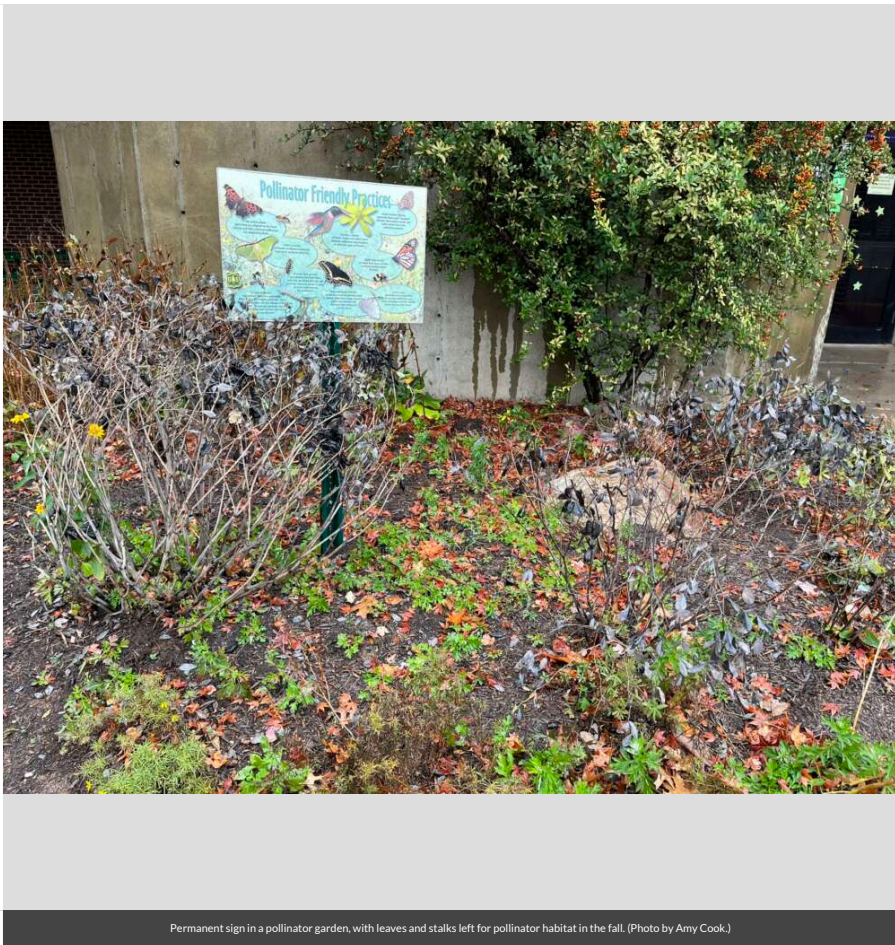
25



The Environmental Sustainability Committee's fall outreach campaign spread the word on campus about the importance of leaving the leaves for pollinators. (Photo by Amy Cook.)



Sign created by the Environmental Sustainability Committee as part of the fall outreach campaign.



Permanent sign in a pollinator garden, with leaves and stalks left for pollinator habitat in the fall. (Photo by Amy Cook.)



Temporary sign as part of the fall outreach campaign on campus. (Photo by Amy Cook.)

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.

ENVI 102 (Environmental Science and Sustainability) students learn about the benefits of rain gardens for stormwater mitigation as well as providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The Botany and Ecology courses cover material on pollinator plants, including landscape ecology and modern environmental problems, plant ecology, and conservation. The Plants, Humans, and the Environment course curriculum includes green infrastructure such as using native plants in rain gardens, the importance of pollinators and native plants, and a discussion of Nature's Best Hope & Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Doug Tallamy. These are all for-credit courses, and there was a total of 15 sections of these 4 courses in 2024.

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

4

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

243

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

Center for Environmental Studies interns collected multispectral drone data from the campus to document the natural increase and spread of common milkweed. The study is ongoing, and the spread of milkweed has occurred due to deer reduction efforts on campus. This project is not associated with a course but is part of an internship program.

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

1

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

4



Students participated in a litter cleanup on campus with the Environmental Club. (Photo by Isabella Scricco.)



Students in the Environmental Club removed invasive species on campus. (Photo by RVCC Environmental Club.)

Policies & Practices

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

Following the IPM plan, which calls for avoiding pesticides unless necessary for human safety.

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

Updating the IPM plan. Worked with the athletics department and turf management company to make field management more pollinator- and river-friendly. In 2024, a goose repellent (Flight Control/anthraquinone) was used by a landscaping contractor on the athletic fields, and it was determined that this pesticide will no longer be used.

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.

- 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)
- 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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

2024 was a year of transition, as our Sustainability Coordinator position was vacant for most of the year. Having a dedicated sustainability staff member in place to take the lead on pollinator projects helps the projects run smoothly and increases the capacity to implement them.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM plan 2025.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

https://www.raritanval.edu/sites/default/files/aa_PDF%20Files/8.x%20General%20Information/RVCC%20Native%20Pollinator%20Plant%20List.pdf

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

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