

# Bee Campus USA - St. Ambrose University

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.*

A current pollinator garden was expanded outside of the campus science building, Lewis Hall, and a new wildflower garden was installed outside of Higgins Hall, a renovated building on campus. Maintenance continued on our campus pollinator gardens, and the campus vegetable garden included pollinator friendly plants like Mexican sunflower and zinnias, in addition to the typical vegetables.

*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?*

40

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

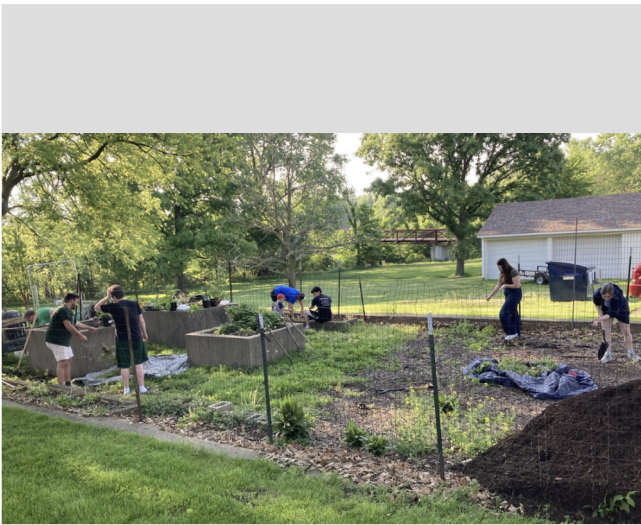
4

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

2500

*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
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement



Students plant additional garden space in spring 2024.



Students plant additional garden space in spring 2024.



Crab Apple tree planted adjacent to one of our largest pollinator gardens.

## Education & Outreach

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

Campus events focused on pollinator conservation engaged a wide swath of the campus and community. The campus environmental club Green Life engages with local elementary and middle school students at a large STEAM event on the St. Ambrose University campus each February, helping children plant native pollinator seeds in small pots, as well as provided them brief informational handouts about their species and the importance of pollinator plants. At Earth Day, students gave out handmade wildflower seed bookmarks and seed bombs. At a fall campus Sustainability Fest and spring Earth Day celebration, we welcomed 30+ community and campus partners to share information about local conservation efforts. We installed more pollinator plants around campus and hosted three separate speakers and films about conservation, regenerative agriculture, and the like. Finally, our environmental studies capstone students presented about internship projects they completed with community partners related to ecological conservation and restoration.

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

10

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

600

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

4

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

5



A speaker with local conservation non-profit Nahant Marsh presents to students and community members. (All photos credit to Dennis Taras)



A speaker from the US Fish and Wildlife Service presents to students and community members.



Students make wildflower bookmarks for Earth Day.

## 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.

We host an environmental studies minor, with multiple biology, philosophy and theology courses considering these issues. As part of the minor, students complete a capstone. Recently, students have interned at local botanical gardens, fish and wildlife service offices, and environmental education facilities. A Sustainability course in the College of Business and several Masters of Public Health courses also integrate this information. We also host a Sustainability Round Table workshop series that emphasizes regenerative agriculture, conservation, and policy change among its many focal topics.

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

6

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

300

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

1

*How many participants attended those continuing education courses?*

200

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

Our students maintain our campus garden, hosted and managed with our local Catholic Diocese. Student groups have regularly assisted with community gardens in nearby neighborhoods, and we have assisted other local non-profits with tree planting, tree root wrapping, and weed management initiatives. We had student groups involved in a local garlic mustard pull, where they won second place! For our annual Bee the Difference Day, students helped prepare the gardens for winter. The student environmental club Green Life recently used club funds to plant a young crab apple tree adjacent to one of our pollinator gardens. This tree will serve as an early source of pollen for our local pollinators.

*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?*

100



Student Class projects during Earth Day engaged with the rest of campus and our community over sustainable practices



Student Class projects during Earth Day engaged with the rest of campus and our community over sustainable practices



Students and faculty remove garlic mustard for the City of Davenport in spring 2024.



Student clean up the garden space and adjacent gardens for partners in the Diocese in fall 2024

## Policies & Practices

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

Our grounds crew has been very intentional only to apply chemical pesticides with spot spraying in locations near or in buildings, taking care not to spray anywhere near our beehive locations. We continue to coordinate with members of the city public works department regarding their native roots program, which encourages additional care in local neighborhoods.

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

Not that we know of; we have robust stormwater management practices and our city partners are very involved.

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

We have hosted some local groups (Master Gardeners, Master Conservationists, etc.) but not specifically on IPM planning.

*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
- 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>)

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

It won't all happen in one year, or even 3 years, and sometimes there are steps back, in addition to encourage steps forward.

---

## Committee Photo

---

[Learn More](#)

[Integrated Pest Management Plan:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant List:](#)

[Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:](#)