

Bee Campus USA - Triton 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.

In 2024, Triton College completed 3 pollinator habitat creation projects. Each of these projects were bioswales installed across campus. The first bioswale project, completed in the spring of 2024, came from repaving parking lot 3. During this repaving project, 10 mini bioswales were added to the parking lot to improve drainage and add pollinator habitat. Each of these little "bioswale islands" contains several native plants, rocks, and a native tree. The second project was also a repaving project that involved 8 new mini bioswales being added to student parking lot 11. The third bioswale project replaced a portion of the concrete walkway through the heart of campus with a long-stretching bioswale containing many pollinator friendly native plants.

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?

36

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

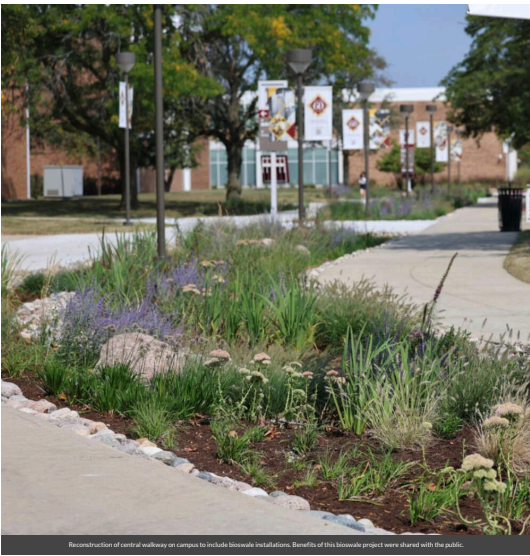
3

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

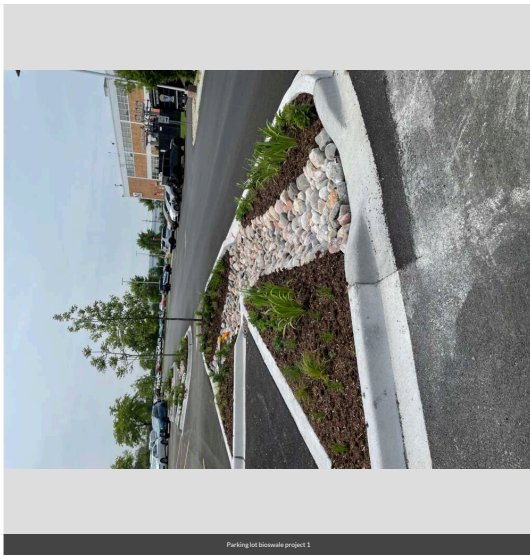
2800

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

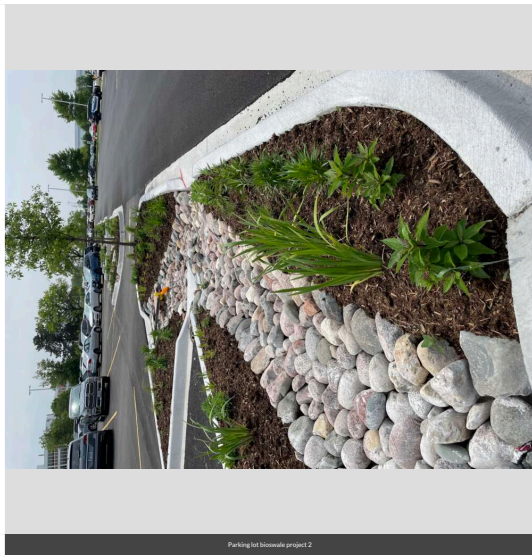
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Reconstruction of central pathway on campus to include bioswale installation. Benefits of this bioswale project were shared with the public.



Parking lot bioswale project 1



Parking lot bioswale project 2

Education & Outreach

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

In the fall of 2024, we hosted 2 events that focused on pollinator conservation and advocacy. The first of these events happened at the 2024 Triton College Fall Family Fun Fest. This annual family event is open to community members and includes many fun interactive activities for kids. In collaboration with the Greening the Campus Committee of Triton College, I led a pollinator activity which involved giving participants native milkweed seeds collected from the Triton campus along with instructions for planting. Kids were able to touch and open seed pods while learning about the benefits that milkweed can bring to the Monarch butterfly and more. Parents were given handouts that outlined the benefits of reducing pesticide use along with planting instructions for their own packet of milkweed seeds. The other pollinator conservation event Triton hosted in 2024 was a collaboration project with students. Working with an Introduction to Biology fall semester course, I led a community conservation event that documented each milkweed plant on Triton's campus. Each student learned how to use the iNaturalist app to observe and document plant species on campus. From the students' observations, a map was created of milkweed species on Triton's campus as of Fall 2024. We hope to repeat the event next year to track changes in the milkweed population on campus and use the map as a conservation tool for protecting the milkweed that is on campus.

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

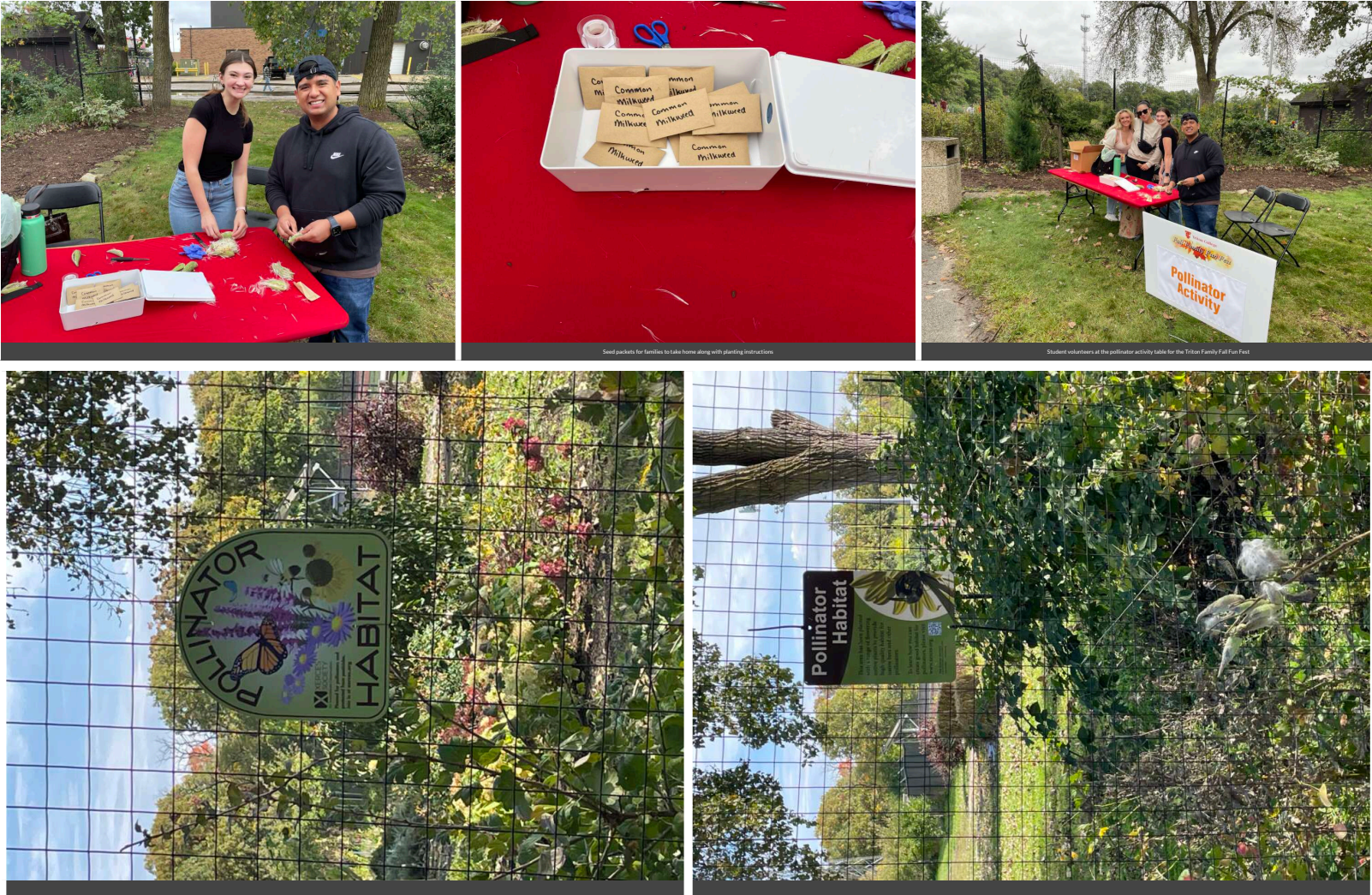
1

How many people attended those events (in total)?

83

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

4



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.

4 different horticulture courses contained pollinator-related discussion and learning throughout 2024. Additionally, one biology course in the fall contained a project and learning day focused solely on pollinators and their benefits.

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

5

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

85

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

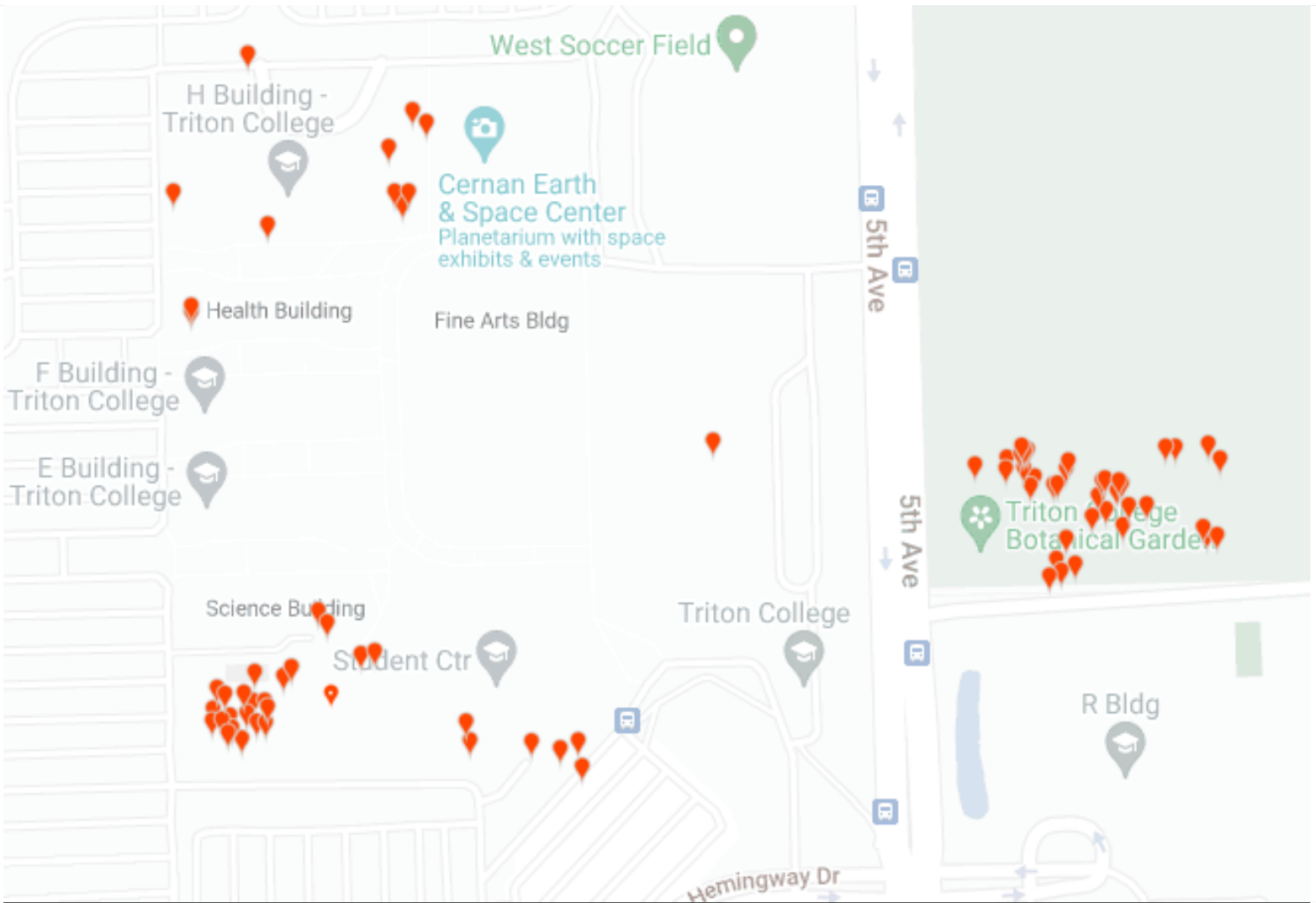
Students in the Fall 2024 Intro to Biology I course participated in a service-learning project using iNaturalist to construct a map of milkweed plants on campus. This map will be updated in the future and will serve as a tool for milkweed population protection on campus.

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

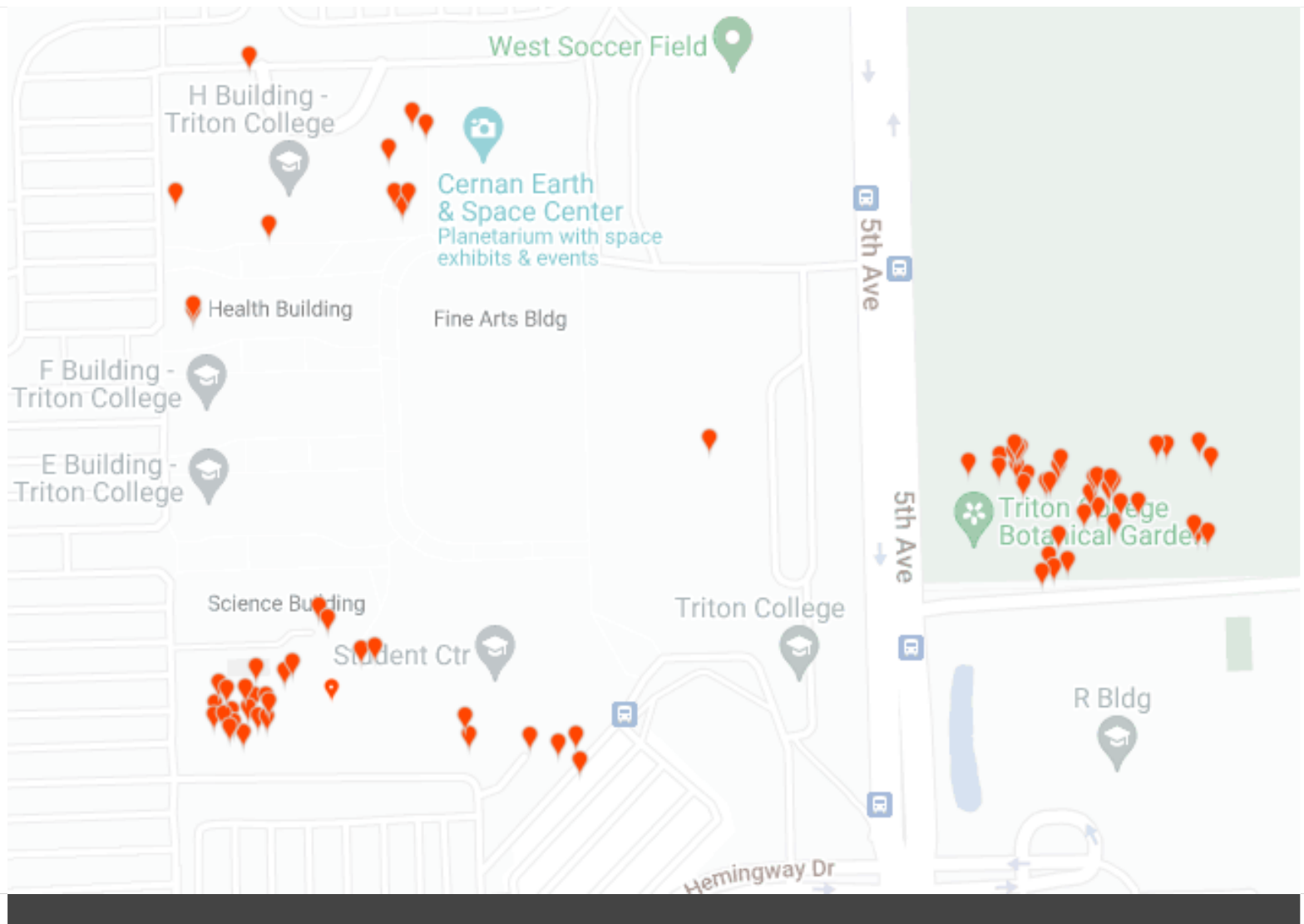
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How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

28



Map of observed Milkweed on the Triton College campus. Observations done by Triton students.



Policies & Practices

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

Triton College continues to follow an integrated pest management plan. Conversations with Grounds Crew staff and the Grounds Crew Supervisor ensures compliance with this plan.

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

Throughout 2024, Triton has added many new acres of pollinator friendly plantings, along with agreements to maintain and protect these spaces long term. This has led to a reduction in pesticide use on campus.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning? There was no further planning towards Pest Management planning this year, except for a review of the current integrated pest management plan and continuance of practice towards it.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

For our campus, adding more bioswales was not only cost-effective but an easy to implement solution to add more pollinator friendly spaces to the campus. I would encourage other campuses to look into spaces that can become bioswales or pollinator friendly planting sites, as many college grounds often remain short grass with little ecological value.

Committee Photo



Most complete photo of the Bee Campus committee, several members not present.

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Anderson Pest Control 1.1 IPM Program.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plants at Triton College.pdf](#)

<https://www.triton.edu/greening-the-campus-committee/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [PM20.pdf](#)

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