

# Bee Campus USA - Truckee Meadows 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 Bee Campus USA Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Committee is an umbrella of the TMCC Sustainability Champions Committee. We seek members from faculty departments, Student Government Association, student clubs (TMCC The Wildlife Society (TWS) Chapter, Garden Club, and Reimagining Sustainability); our facilities Department, from here we have members from our cafeteria, vending machines, and gardens, we also have members from marketing, etc. The Main Focus of the Bee Campus USA Committee is to support our Pollinator Garden, create opportunities to provide educational opportunities to our constituents, students, and via outreach opportunities, to our community. We also strive to create policies and procedures that lead to all our campuses gardens, providing a healthy and sustainable habitat to the biodiversity that exists on our campuses, especially as we work diligently to not use harmful pesticides which have been proven to be a major pollinator deterrent and to have deleterious effects on these and other species. A major role was taken last year by the TMCC The Wildlife Society Chapter/Club (TWS) in the maintenance of our Countes Dandini Pollinator Garden. They had several sessions of working on the garden with the intension of eliminating invasive/harmful plants, working on soil, seeding the garden, and assisting during our Earth Day event. During Earth Day they dug holes for the planting, and assisted in the planting of over 60 native plants. Our facilities department provided compost produced on-site (utilizing green waste from our campus), and after the event, they added the drip irrigation necessary for the initial survival of the plants. Committee members work with our foundation department to find funding opportunities to purchase the plants, more soil, and protective covering for the plants (we have a large rodent and avian population which in the last two years have consumed seedling and freshly planted native plants). The TWS Club is also working with our facilities grounds personnel to create owl nesting sites. This, to reduce/control but ecologically maintain in balance the rodent population mentioned above. So that in this biological manner, we can reduce the need of harmful rodenticides or inhumane trapping techniques. The sustainability champions also lead to the creation of an independent study class for the summer of 2024, where students from the garden club and any other that is interested, could enroll, with the idea that they would: (a) receive credit for a course taken; (b) attract more student to participate in the summer, when it is the ideal time for gardening in our region, and when our students enrollment tends to diminish; (c) the garden would provide pollinator habitat; and; (d) the students would also learn about native and non-native pollinators. Ecoblitz, here participants learned about the importance of tracking the biodiversity in a region in a green space urban park, which leads to management practices that protect such resources. Especially that of pollinators, which are crucial to the planet because they facilitate the reproduction of flowering plants by transferring pollen, which is essential for plant diversity and the production of many food crops, and the natural biodiversity of the region. In other words, without pollinators, a significant portion of our food supply would

be at risk and ecosystems would be significantly disrupted.

*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?*

103

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

2

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

10000

*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...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- School garden



TWS Students working on eliminating invasive species

## Education & Outreach

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

- Earth Day, annual event to enhance constituents/students of the College and of the Greater Reno Area, about being stewards of this our earth. In the pollinator garden section of this event, attendees learned about how we became a Bee Campus USA, our efforts related to pollinators, native plants, and the reduction of pesticides.
- Pollinator Garden Tour, this we did in cooperation with UNR Co-op whom organized this first event for our community. Again, attendees learned about our efforts as a bee campus USA, and toured our pollinator garden to learn about best practices for gardening and pollinators in our region.
- Visit from Hub High School, where students from this institution visited our garden and learned of steps to become a bee campus USA. They also learned of native plants in our garden: where to purchase, how to protect and maintain, sustainable irrigation practices, etc.
- Par Course Signage Unveiling, was a Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Professional Development offering. Here we invited campus administration, faculty, classified, student workers to learn about the benefits or the Par Course the surrounds our

campus and transects the pollinator garden. • The TMCC Foundation Department facilitated: o the attendance of some of our Bee Campus USA Committee Members of the February Nevada Bee Keepers Conference o the purchase of honey bee queen package for our hive and course offerings • Bowers Blue Grass. In cooperation with Reno's Save the Bee Foundation, we offered educational materials, and informed attendees of our efforts as they relate to being a Bee Campus & City USA. Especially as it relates to native bees and reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides • Ecoblitz. This event invites TMCC community (administrators, faculty, classified, and students), and community members for the Greater Reno Area to assist as citizens of science and help inventory the biodiversity in a green park area in our community known as Rancho San Rafael Regional Park • Undergraduate Research Poster Presentations. Students for the Introduction to Entomology course, create species accounts of local native insects, and present their findings/projects during this event • Grants. Members of the sustainability champions groups, wrote, applied, and received 4 grants: (a) to educate students from our college about sustainable actions and pledge to reduce the use of plastics; (b) for students from entomology and welding, to collaborate and create an anatomically correct barbeque in the form of a bee. Student from entomology would learn the exterior anatomy of the bee and in cooperation with welding student, would design the barbeque – which the welding students would then build; (d) the natural history museum on our campus would create a display in the library relating the ecology and biodiversity of the pollinator garden on our campus

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

4

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

404

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

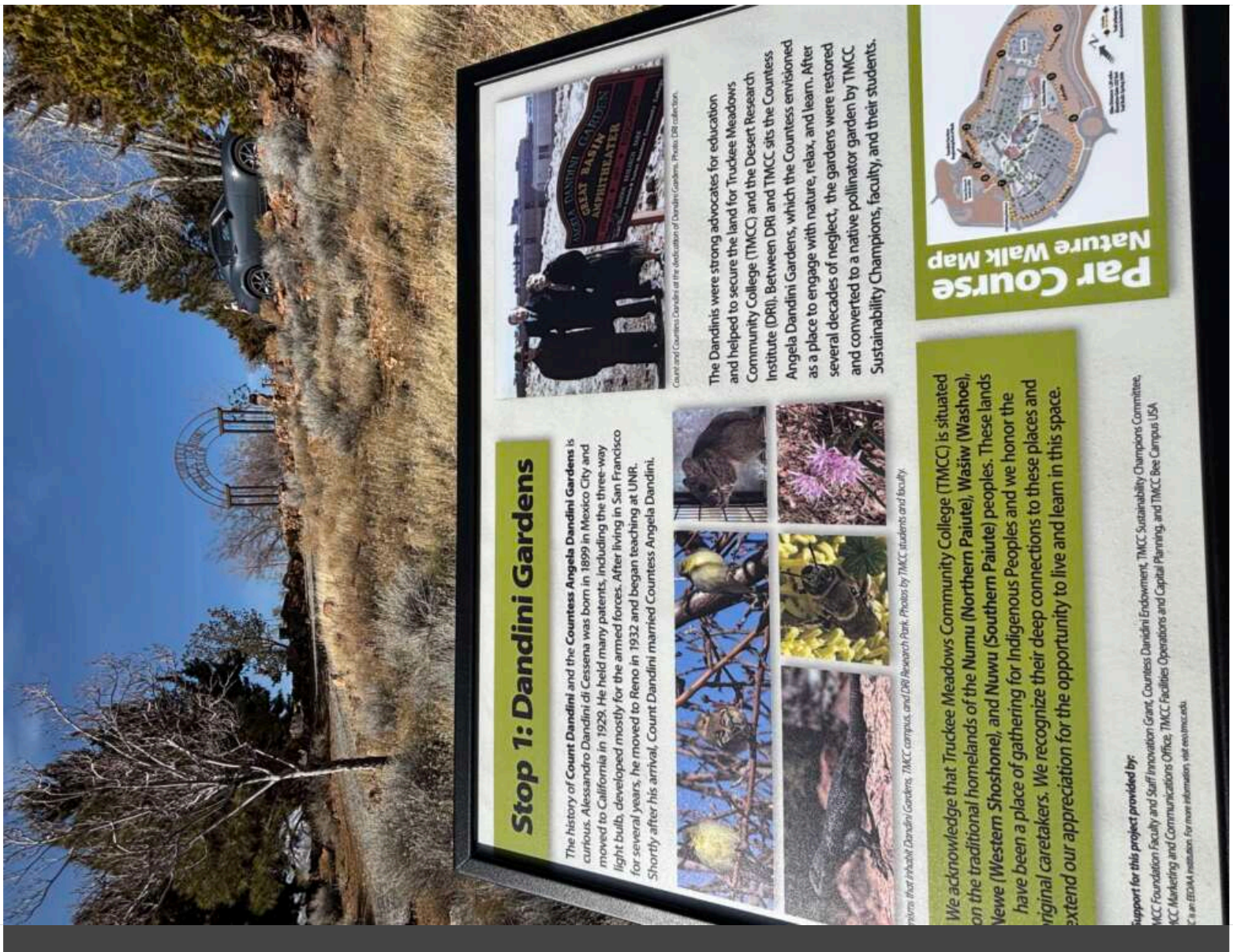
7

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

1



HUB HS Students assisted with milkweed garden



## 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.

- BIOL 191, BIOL 202, BIOL 137, BIOL 234,..... Students are introduced to the world of insects, learn the main orders, learn scientific study techniques, and conservation and management practices
- EDU 201, 207 ..... 4 STEAM activities at the pollinator garden, EDU 201 Introduction to Elementary Education" and "EDU 207 Children's Literature" sections.
- Backyard Bee Keeping .... Emphasizes the care of non-native and native bees
- Natural History Museum .....

worked with undergraduate students who not only assist in the collection, curation, and preservation of specimens; this semester, did a study of the insects and plants that exist in the pollinator garden • Independent study offered to gardening students club and any student interest in learning gardening techniques related to our region, and pollinators they attract and benefit

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

6

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

204

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

1

*How many participants attended those continuing education courses?*

12

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

• Ecoblitz \_ we inventoried Rancho Rafael National parks insects' population • Hub HS Visit \_ students learned about how to become a bee campus USA, and how TMCC attained this honor. They also toured our pollinator garden and learned about native plants and sustainable garden irrigation practices, and pesticide management • Washoe County Visit \_ we spoke of keeping a record of how many people attend the park; if any specific areas to the park that would be considered "high traffic" regions; providing information on the Water Flow throughout the park, both natural and irrigated; etc. • Pollinator Garden Tour – organized by • Bower Blue grass Event \_ Partnered with Reno's Save the Bee Foundation, here we had educational pamphlets and spoke to attendees of our efforts related to enhancing pollinator habitat, protection of native and non-native pollinators, and reducing the use of pesticides • Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Clean up Event \_ members assisted with clean-up of the Truckee River and learned of the benefits of community service, but more importantly of the importance of maintaining healthy water sheds and the association of this with the biodiversity in our area • Par Course Signage Unveiling Event \_ students attended the unveiling and learned of us being a Bee Campus USA, how the garden is adapted to the geology, hydrology, biodiversity of the area, and how it is managed and maintained • Natural History Museum Pollinator Garden Library Display \_ students that worked at the natural history museum, assisted with the design of the display, preservation and curation of organisms, creation of display, and in organizing and participating in unveiling event

*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?

150

**BROWSE**

ALL CLASSES >

CAREER CERTIFICATES AND CEUS ↓

BUSINESS SKILLS ↓

CREATIVE ARTS ↓

PILATES USING A REFORMER ↓

RECREATION AND WELLNESS ↓

SPECIAL TOPICS ↓

SILVER COLLEGE ↓

SAFETY CENTER ↓

LAST VIEWED

## Backyard Beekeeping

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many uses of bee products. Discuss initial and long-term investment costs.

Discover what you need to do to keep happy, healthy and productive bees, as a hobby. Whether you want to keep bees for honey production, improved pollination of your veggies, or simply for the enjoyment of living in harmony with these amazing insects, this class is for you. Understand the environmental importance of honey bees as well as native bees and what it takes to raise them. Learn about the equipment, costs, and environmental concerns about raising healthy colonies of honey bees in your back yard. Learn traditional methods of maximizing honey production as well as more recent trends in "natural" beekeeping. Delve into their biology and husbandry needs, bee problems and treatments, harvesting and the

TMCC EPIC Bacyard Bee Keeping Class



TMCC Earth Day 24 - Release of Lady-Bugs at Pollinator Graden

## Policies & Practices

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

The TMCC Sustainability Champions Committee works very closely with our facilities area. We have three members from the Facilities Department: its Associate Vice-President, Grounds Keeping Manager, and one of the grounds keeping associates. They and our Institution are committed to chemical free pest management on our campus. This year they incorporated experimenting with and creating owl nests on our main Dandini Campus for biological rodent control, and invited students from The TMCC Wildlife Society Chapter/Club to monitor these nests via remote wildlife cameras, which we are working on developing into an undergraduate research study.

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

renewable materials do not end up in the county landfill which is adjacent to the region's main water source of our community, the Truckee River. In composting these materials, we would be able to combine these materials with the green waste we collect on campus, and re-incorporate these materials as healthy soil/compost to our grounds. The Sustainability Champion Members and the TMCC The Wildlife Society Members, have been invited to attend composting workshops offered by USDA and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful – related to composting. The campus is also studying the deicers it uses, in order to reduce concrete breakdown and salt crystals leaching into ground water, which can be harmful to the environment.

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

Yes, members of the Sustainability Champions Committee were invite to participate related educational workshops offered by XERCES and by the University of Nevada Reno Co-Op. At least 4 members participated

*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
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Dropped pesticide use altogether 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>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- 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>)

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

As an Institution of Higher Education, you have to count with the support of your Administration; and secondly, the Bee Campus USA Committee must be engaged in resourcing funding sources

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## Committee Photo



TMCC Bee Campus USA Committee Members

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN\\_TMCC\\_Application Jan 2022.docx](#)

<https://www.appa.org/facilities-manager/tmcc-facilities-a-commitment-to-environmental-sustainability/>

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Pollinator Garden Proposal Native Plant List Application Jan 2022.pdf](#)

[Washoe State Nursery](#)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [Plant\\_Species\\_Information\\_LahtiNativeSpeciesAdditions.xlsx](#)

<https://nevadagrown.com/washoe-state-nursery/>

<https://www.tmcc.edu/diversity/sustainability/bee-campus-usa>

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<https://www.instagram.com/tmccnevada/?hl=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/TMCCNV>