

Bee Campus USA - Tufts University Medford-Somerville

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, our focus consisted of maintaining our existing 3000 sq feet of habitat space and enhancing the way people can experience and enjoy these spaces. Outside of our own gardens and committee, we have worked with multiple municipalities, government agencies, and community members by distributing native plants for free or donations. Mainly, we distributed native plants that were used to create pollinator habitat at the Hyde Park Public library, the Haley House, the Somerville Growing Center, Loker School, Watertown Community Gardens, and Eastie Farm. These different organizations either installed pollinator gardens, maintained preexisting pollinator gardens, or given to community members for a low-cost or for free. We are worked with the MBTA, the city of Somerville, the Somerville Garden Club, and landscape architects to help design and organize the installation of a pollinator garden along the new Somerville community path extension and this was successfully installed in 2024.

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?

20

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

3000

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

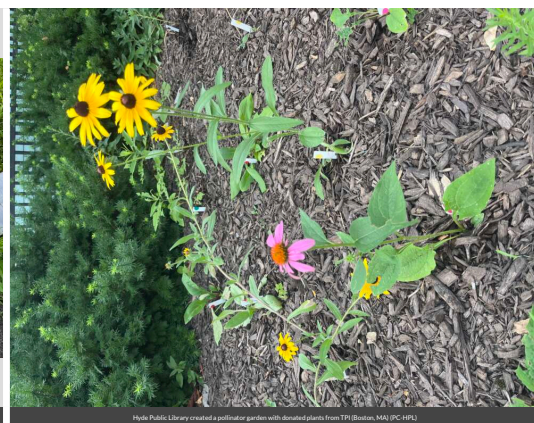
- Flower garden
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other



Somerville Growing Center used plants from TPI to create pollinator habitat for community members. (PC: SCC)



Watertown Community Garden using donated plants from TPI to create Pollinator Habitat along a shared used path. (Watertown, MA) (PC: Waterbeen Community Garden)



Hyde Public Library created a pollinator garden with donated plants from TPI. (Boston, MA) (PC: HPL)

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, we continued our commitment towards providing access to pollinator education and native plants to the greater community. Our goal is to enhance the relationship between people who live in cities and the nature around them, and as a result encourage community members to engage in and care about pollinator conservation. We attended and presented at a variety of events that reached community members of all ages, including the Hyde Park Library: Gardening Series, Gardeners Gathering, Alumni Reunion Weekend-Pollinator Safaris, Earth Day Pollinator Safari, ArtsBeats (Somerville) and Tufts Community Day. We also consulted on a pollinator garden for a planting along one of the main biking/walking paths in the community. This year, instead of a plant sale, we donated over 1000 native plant seedlings plants to 6 different community groups in the greater Boston area to reach a larger audience of people who want to start a pollinator garden and support pollinator habitats. This included Urban Farming Institutes, libraries, elementary schools, and community growing centers that were involved in supporting and creating new pollinator groups. Finally, we maintained and restocked our local on-campus Free Little Seed Library built by a senior engineering student, which we restock with native seeds from our gardens.

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

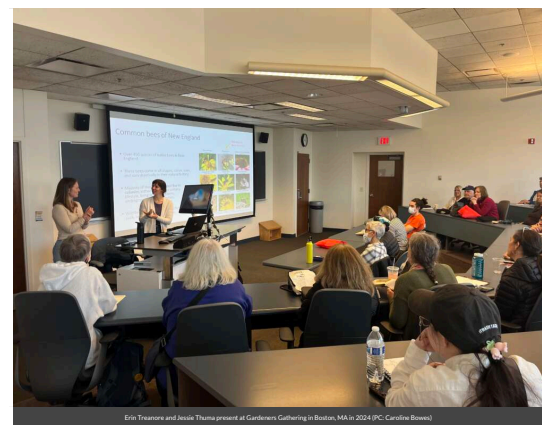
6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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

6



Erin Treanore and Jessie Thoma present at Gardeners Gathering in Boston, MA in 2024 (PC: Caroline Bowes)



Bythe Elbert, Erin Treanore, and Karen Dooley held a table at the Somerville Community Festival Arts/Buzz (Somerville, MA) (PC: Karen Dooley)



Erin Treanore, Karen Dooley, and Bythe Elbert held a table at the Somerville Community Festival Arts/Buzz (Somerville, MA) (PC: Karen Dooley)

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 incorporated pollinator-related information into curriculums into one of our classes which reached approximately 50 students. The course was “Food 4 All: Ecology, Biotechnology, and Sustainability.” The content for each guest lecture is tailored to the specific course, but generally covers what pollinators are, how pollinators are tied into global food security, the differences between wild and managed pollinators, and the main points of pollinator conservation

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

1

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

50

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

This fall, we worked with graduate and undergraduate students to teach them how to collect native seeds. We then packaged and labeled these seeds to be distributed to the community through our Free Little Seed Library.

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?

7

Policies & Practices

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

We have worked with the Tufts ground management team to ensure proper management of our gardens, including not using any pesticides on our native pollinator gardens. We have also worked with them and created a plan to ensure that they understand proper care of the gardens into the future, including where to order bee-safe plants to supplement gardens and proper maintenance during all seasons (with pollinators in mind). This ensures that the habitat we have worked hard to create is maintained for years to come by the university.

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

We don't currently have policy initiatives underway in addition to the work we've done, but there are continued efforts in the greater Boston Area, such as through the Somerville Pollinator Action Plan, the Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways group, and other groups like the MBTA.

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

No, but these questions were frequently asked at the outreach events we attended and/or presented at and we provided science-informed responses.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written 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)
- Restricted pesticides used to organic pesticides on city or campus grounds
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Committee Photo



Karen Dooley, Jessie Thuma, and Erin Treanore ran TPI for the 2024 calendar year (PC-Karen Dooley)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [FINAL TPI Tufts IPM.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/planting-guides/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/planting-guides/>

sites.tufts.edu/pollinators

tuftspollinators@gmail.com

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