

# Bee Campus USA - University of Iowa

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.*

**- 2 new pollinator garden that included milkweeds and other native plants - Committee cohosted - 3 invasive species removal events - Committee cohosted - 1 pollinator garden expansion that included milkweeds and other native plants - Committee cohosted**

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

**6**

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

**80**

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

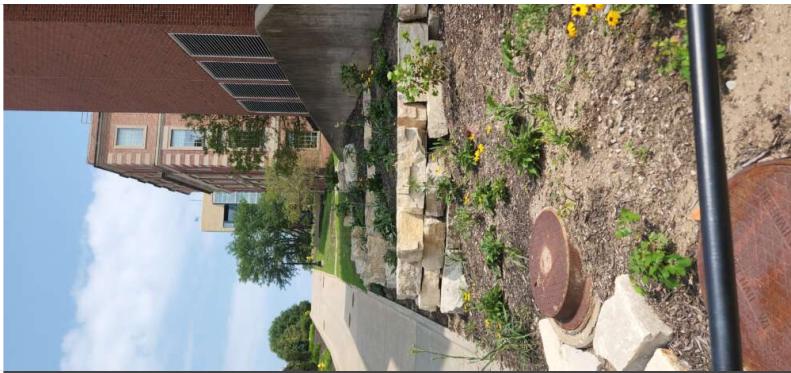
**8**

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

**3210**

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

- Flower garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



New pollinator garden installed on north side of Chemistry Building



New pollinator garden installed near corner of Catlett Residence Hall

## Education & Outreach

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

– Outreach at local Prairie Preview event – March 2024 – Committee participated – City Nature Challenge event – April 2024 – Committee cohosted – Macbride Nature Challenge event – April 2024 – Committee cohosted – Wetlands Conservation after Sackett v. EPA: Federal Implications and State Responses Panel – April 2024 – Committee cohosted – Native tree seedling giveaway event – April 2024 – Committee cohosted – 4th Annual BioBlitz at Ashton Prairie Living Lab – July 2024 – Committee cohosted – Outreach at BioBlitz Bash at Big Grove – July 2024 – Committee cohosted – On Iowa! Prairie Tour – August 2024 – Committee cohosted – Outreach at 4 Seasons Garden Club meeting- September 2024 – Committee cohosted – Green Sports Day outreach and native seed distribution – October 2024 – Committee cohosted

*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)?*

1000

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

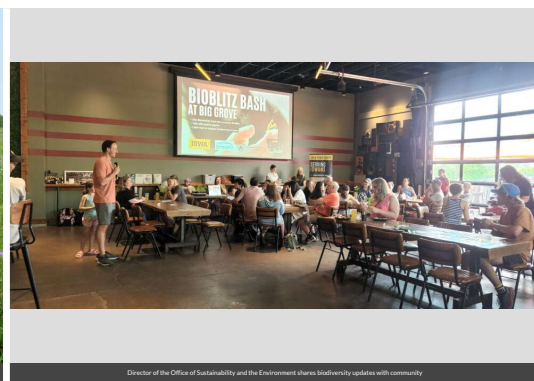
14



Student researchers assist community members with insect identification at the university's 4th annual bioblitz



Herky the Hawk visits the prairie



Director of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment shares biodiversity updates with community



Bee Campus sign in garden near Lagoon Shelter House



Bee Campus sign in garden near Catlett Residence Hall

## 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.*

- **Prairie Restoration (for credit)** – With this course, students actively participate in the ecological reconstruction of a prairie on the UI campus. Through basic fieldwork, students come to better appreciate the principles and techniques of prairie restoration
- **Entomology Lab (for credit)** – In this course, students gain hands-on experience in lab and field settings to learn about insect biology, diversity, ecology, morphology, physiology, and behavior. Students learn professional entomology techniques such as insect collection and preservation, DNA extraction and sequencing, and analysis of evolutionary and ecological data.
- **Environmental Conservation (for credit)** – Urban living has many benefits but also has implications for the health and well-being of urbanites as well as for the survival of species and integrity and functioning of urban ecosystems. Identifying ways to manage cities to sustainably support healthy human populations, biodiversity, and ecosystems requires us to understand how people experience, value, benefit from, are harmed by, and make decisions regarding urban nature.
- **Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Law (for credit)** – This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the law of species and habitat protection, focusing on animals and plants located in the Macbride Nature Recreation Area, managed by UI WILD. Students will learn how state and federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, National

Environmental Policy Act, and Clean Water Act work in practice by learning from experts who apply these regulatory frameworks in the field.

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

4

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

100

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

– 1 new pollinator garden that included milkweeds and other native plants – involved student orgs, student interns – 1 bioblitz event involved students from student orgs, student interns/fellows/researchers – 1 bee survey – involved students from the Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Law course

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

3

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

60





Student orgs assist with new pollinator garden planting



Student orgs and student researchers assist community members with plant and insect identification at bioblitz

## Policies & Practices

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

– We amended our 3rd party contract with our golf course management vendor to include language requiring them to help us meet our Bee Campus goals by following IPM best practices, incorporating native habitat, and reporting their usage of chemicals and justification for their use annually. – We are in the process of creating a pilot project in collaboration with Rewild Your Campus and Beyond Pesticides to test out organic turf management in our high-profile turf areas. Most of our campus is not treated with any pesticides, but some high-profile turf still does. This pilot will provide proof of concept for converting to organic turf management.

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

Yes, we have a campus-wide goal to improve water quality in the Iowa River by implementing best practices for stormwater management and water conservation on campus. Some of the tactics to achieve this goal include reducing the application and toxicity of pesticides by following an IPM plan, installing rain gardens or bioswales, and replacing lawn with native plantings.

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

No

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

We have a large Bee Campus committee and members represent many different areas of expertise. We have students from a variety of academic interests, professional staff who are experts in land management practices, and faculty who are experts in native plants, insects, and prairie restoration. This has allowed us to build momentum, make progress in our respective areas, and get buy-in for campus-wide goals. It has also provided an opportunity for all members to

understand the concerns, limitations, policies, procedures, and organizational structure of other areas. This helps us make informed decisions about what to prioritize and who to collaborate with on specific projects.

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Committee Photo

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Learn More

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:** [Integrated Pest Management Plan - Draft.pdf](#)

<https://sustainability.uiowa.edu/pest-management>

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [Native Plants List for Landscaping Use.xlsx](#)

<https://sustainability.uiowa.edu/iowa-native-plants>

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**

<https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org/resources/prairie-reconstruction/seed-and-service-providers>

<http://sustainability.uiowa.edu>

[sustainability@uiowa.edu](mailto:sustainability@uiowa.edu)

<https://www.instagram.com/SustainUI>

<https://facebook.com/@SustainUI>