

Bee Campus USA - University of Pittsburgh

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.

PLANT 2 PLATE STUDENT GARDEN – Through both reorganization of existing pollinator gardens and new plantings, Pitt's Plant 2 Plate student garden created an additional 205 square feet of pollinator habitat in 2024. A Plant 2 Plate pollinator garden added in 2023 was relocated in 2024 by students seeking more crops on this student-run urban farm; pollinator plants were transplanted into a 625 square foot pollinator border along the boundary line of the farm. This border now contains Anise Hyssop, Great Blue Lobelia, Magnus Echinacea, and several varieties of Milkweed. Students also constructed a new flower garden in the front of the urban gardening plot containing similar species to help local pollinators. One raised garden bed is also dedicated as a flower bed containing species outlined in Penn State University's s Pollinator Friendly Habitat Certification. **MARLIE GARDEN ON O'HARA STREET** – In 2023, Pitt's Marlie Garden on O'Hara Street was removed to accommodate campus construction projects. However, in April 2024, the Pitt Conservation Club and members from the University's Grounds team replanted the Marlie Garden. The initial replanting of Marlie Garden is not accounted for in this report. However, on November 11, 2024, the Pitt Conservation Club and Pitt Grounds staff returned to the site to enhance the garden by planting native flowering Pawpaw trees along with various native flowering perennials to help support pollinator species. 20 student volunteers helped increase the species diversity in Marlie Garden by assisting with planting efforts. >>>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/campus-culture/facilities/landscape-ecology/marlie-garden/> **VERA STREET**

GARDEN – Pitt's Vera Street garden was created in partnership between students from an undergraduate sustainability class and Pitt's Grounds crew. In April 2024, they planted 4 Ninebark, 5 Buttonbush, 4 wild bergamot, 108 Ox-eye, 60 Joe Pye, and 96 Black Eyed Susans in a 400 square foot plot on Vera Street. **VERA STREET NATIVE TREE PLANTING** – In August 2024, 17 incoming first-year students and the Pitt Grounds team planted 26 trees to help support native pollinator species along Vera Street behind the University's Peterson Sports Complex. Trees planted included 6 Allegheny Serviceberries, 4 Fringe trees, 6 Pagoda Dogwoods, 4 Kentucky Coffee trees, and 6 Eastern White Pine trees. **TINY FOREST ON DARRAGH STREET** – In April 2024, a group of students from the GEOL 1333 Sustainability Projects course explored the possibility of planting a tiny forest in a plot of land by Darragh Street. When analyzing the site with Pitt's Grounds team, they found the soil too compacted to plant trees; however, to improve soil quality, students planted native flowering species in this 818 square foot area, including 4 Ninebark, 3 Buttonbush, 4 Wild Bergamot, 60 Ox-eye, 50 Joe-Pye, and 55 Black-Eyed Susan.

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

5

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

56

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

4

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

6523

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- School garden



University of Pittsburgh students helping plant a Pawpaw tree in Marlie Garden for pollinators.



17 University of Pittsburgh incoming first-year students planted 26 trees to help support native pollinator species with Pitt's Grounds crew.

Education & Outreach

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

Pitt recognizes Pollinator Week with a month-long celebration highlighting the importance of pollinators and ways people can support our native species by hosting events and creating an educational outreach campaign on our social media. In partnership, the University's Pollinator Habitat Advisory Committee hosted the following events for Pollinator Month: 1) Sustainable Landscapes Faculty and Staff Professional Development Class (June 6, 2024) – 18 attendees – In this professional development course for Pitt employees, participants learned about the different types of pollinators found on campus, the importance of planting native species, and the role trees play in pollinators' life cycles. >>> <https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/pollinator-month-2024/> 2) Pollinators & Our Food System (June 10, 2024) – 5 attendees – This planting session was led by a member of the Pitt Pollinator Habitat Advisory Committee at the University's Plant 2 Plate student garden. Participants got to help with planting, while learning about the pollinators who play an important role in our food system. >>>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/pollinator-month-2024/> 3) Stewards of the Earth: Sustainable Landscapes at Pitt – 8 attendees – This informative virtual lunch and learn focused on the sustainable landscape methods implemented on Pitt’s campus to promote environmental stewardship to help transform our community. >>

<https://youtu.be/gjbvKY-ulU> 4) DIY Nature Journal (June 17, 2024) -7 attendees – This event led by Pitt’s Center for Creativity taught participants how to construct a simple book from scratch to use for environmental observation, drawings of pollinators, and plant rubbings. >>> <https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/diy-nature-journal> 5) Bee-licious Pollinator Tour – 5 attendees- This tour showcased Pitt’s pollinator-friendly gardens, bioswales, and landscaping. A local beekeeper from Bee Boy PGH spoke about the importance of pollinators and how to keep honeybees in an urban environment. Participants were able to taste honey that was harvested from hives next door to campus. >>>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/event/bee-licious-pollinator-tour/> 6) Creative Butterfly Puddlers (June 18, 2024) – 14 attendees – This program by Pitt’s Center for Creativity taught attendees how to make backyard butterfly puddlers using a variety of recycled materials to give native butterflies the nutrients they need to keep the region growing. >>

<https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/make-a-splash-creative-butterfly-puddlers> 7) Peacocks& Painted Ladies: Butterfly Art (June 20, 2024) – 9 attendees – Participants got to celebrate butterflies at this event by discovering the work of Andrey Avinoff, internationally known artist, lepidopterist, and professor who served as Director of the nearby Carnegie Museum of Natural History from 1926 to 1945. Attendees also created their own butterflies using different paper crafting methods in the Text & conText Lab. >>>

<https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/peacocks-painted-ladies-butterfly-art> 8) Cyanotypes from Nature (June 21, 2024) – 15 attendees – Participants learned how to create botanical prints of native species that pollinators rely on through the art of cyanotype. >>> <https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/cyanotypes-from-nature> 9) Matrix Gardening Virtual Lunch & Learn (June 21, 2024) – 19 attendees – In this virtual lunch and learn, participants learned how to start a garden that benefits local pollinators through matrix gardening design. >>> <https://youtu.be/r-Uv6ivQWJw> 10) Pollinator Plant Giveaway (June 24, 2024) – 96 attendees – Pitt pollinator committee members tabled outside the student union to answer questions about how to create a pollinator garden; they also handed out free native flower species (Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*) for people to plant in their own backyards or patio containers. >>>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/pollinator-month-2024/> 11) Monitoring Monarchs Virtual Lunch & Learn (June 26, 2024) – 5 attendees – Dr. Inhee Lee discussed their research on tracking monarchs’ migration over 3000 miles to winter in central Mexico using a miniature electronic system to support butterfly conservation. >>>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftL16vZ7cuY> Additional educational events were held throughout the year to help educate students, staff, and faculty on how they could help protect native pollinator populations. These events included: 1) PittMed Seed Planting (January 29, 2024) – 4 attendees – Pitt’s School of Medicine hosted an event where students learned how to stratify native perennial seed. Using upcycled plastic jugs, the group created planters that were then set outside to stratify. These seeds became the Pollinator Month giveaway plants. 2) Lunch & Learn for Medical Students (October 10, 2024) – 27 attendees – A local medical doctor presented to Pitt medical students about the importance of pollinator species and showed how to turn a front yard into a pollinator garden. Detail was provided about the Pollinator Habitat Certification from Phipps Conservatory and how to get your own yard certified. 3) Pitt Pollinator Gardens and Seed Collection Walk (September 30, 2024) – 4 attendees – Participants explored Pitt’s native

plantings and learned more about Fall-blooming plants, what pollinators are up to in Fall, and how to harvest native seeds to grow their own pollinator garden over the winter.

>>><https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/event/pollinator-native-seeds-walk/> Pitt posts pollinator educational content on its social media accounts year-round, with a concentrated educational campaign in June to celebrate Pollinator Week.

Examples include, but aren't limited to; • PittSustainability Instagram Account o April 12, 2024: Join us and Pollinator Habitat Advisory Committee member, Greg Null for a virtual lunch and learn. Come take your first steps to both beautify your yard and creating biodiverse habitat that benefits people, native pollinators, and wildlife! Register at the link in our bio. >>> <https://www.instagram.com/p/C5rHMOOnvp4p/?next=> o April 24, 2024: Have you seen the pink trees on campus? April is the best time to see our native Eastern Redbud Trees in full bloom! Take a walk between the Cathedral of Learning and Heinz Memorial Chapel to see these vibrant native trees! >>>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C6JpJ4rJYQ/?next=> o June 3, 2024: It's Pollinator Month, Pitt! Stay tuned for events and highlights all month long! >>> https://www.instagram.com/p/C7w0RsKJ_RG/?next= o June 5, 2024: Our first featured pollinator of the month. More to come! >>>

https://www.instagram.com/p/C717YM-pG8_/?next=&img_index=1 o June 10, 2024: A wonderful pollinator chat at @plant2plategarden today thank you, Corey be sure to visit the garden whenever you have a chance >>>

https://www.instagram.com/p/C8Ctp9MRymG/?next=&img_index=1 o June 11, 2024: The beauty of pollinator diversity >>> <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8FEckpMezE/?next=> o June 12, 2024: Heads up, Pitt community! Link in our bio for all things pollinator month >>> <https://www.instagram.com/p/C8H1q8uMji1/?next=> o June 17, 2024: A weeks worth of Pollinator events, all right here. >>>

https://www.instagram.com/p/C8UI4D7sqGu/?next=&img_index=1 o June 25, 2024: Pollinator month has been such a blast! From tours to tastings to beautiful skies this month may be coming to a close, but keep an eye out for more events on our website! >>> https://www.instagram.com/p/C8pejyfcjM/?next=&img_index=3 o July 18, 2024: Pitt in bloom! >>> <https://www.instagram.com/p/C9kMCtytQxT/?next=> o September 25, 2024: Pollinator gardens aren't just for summer! Join us on Monday, September 30, at 12 PM to explore Pitt's fall-blooming native plants, learn what pollinators are up to, and get tips on harvesting native seeds to grow your own garden over winter. Meet us between Hillman Library and Lawrence Hall—and be ready to walk! Register at the link in our bio. >>>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DAWCq6HRczi/?next=&img_index=6 o November 7, 2024: Organic land care goal achieved! Pitt has reached its goal of managing 75% of its landscaped areas according to the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Standards for Organic Land Care—a 2024 target met ahead of schedule thanks to our dedicated Facilities Management team. Led by Andrew Moran, senior manager of grounds, the team has embraced practices like using battery-powered equipment, natural fertilizers, sourcing native plants, and even "GoatScaping" (using goats for eco-friendly land maintenance) to increase campus sustainability. Learn more about Pitt's sustainable landscaping practices at the link in our bio. >>> https://www.instagram.com/p/DCFKVtdvkN0/?next=&img_index=3 •

Pollinator Related Articles o May 13, 2024: "Finding Resiliency in Ecosystems: Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation hosts third installment of Green Speakeasy Research Series" >>> <https://news.engineering.pitt.edu/finding-resiliency-in-ecosystems/> o August 27, 2024: This professor's insect collection will help measure ecosystem health across the continent >>>

<https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/pittwire/features-articles/mary-mulcahy-insect-pollinator-collection-research> o March 29, 2024: Bioengineering and Sustainability Come Together for Urban Biodiversity Study >>>

<https://pitttothepoint.com/bioengineering-and-sustainability-come-together/> o June 26, 2024: Pitt Sustainability celebrates Pollinator Month >>>

<https://pittnews.com/article/188766/uncategorized/pitt-sustainability-celebrates-pollinator-month/> o June 28, 2024: Successful Pollinator Month ushers in summer of Pitt Sustainability events >>>

<https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/news/successful-pollinator>

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

15

How many people attended those events (in total)?

244

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

17



Corey Flynn, member of the University of Pittsburgh's Pollinator Habitat Advisory Committee, teaches about the importance of pollinators in our food systems.



University of Pittsburgh Students crafting their own butterflies after learning about the pollinator inspired artwork of Andrey Avinoff



17 interpretive signs identifying tree species were installed in 2023 along a walking route to educate the campus community about the trees on campus and their ecological roles

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.

FOR CREDIT The following twelve (12) academic, for credit courses at Pitt include pollinator content: BIOSC 0370: ECOLOGY 361 undergraduate students This undergraduate course provided a broad introduction to the study of ecology and organismal, population, community, and ecosystem levels of hierarchical organization, including the study of pollinators in the ecosystem. BIOSC 0160: FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGY 2 1,646 undergraduates This course explored interactions of individual organisms (including pollinators) with their environment, members of their own species, and individuals of other species. The course also discussed biodiversity, with a special focus on conservation

efforts, exploring the decline in abundance of pollinator communities. BIOSC 0390: ECOLOGY LABS 136 undergraduates Students taking Ecology Labs did natural history observations, including observations of insects and pollinator gardens around the University's Pittsburgh campus. BIOSC 0057: FLOWER MICROBIOME 620 undergraduates This course was a foundation of biology lab in which students considered insects and pollinator interactions when thinking about data analysis and interpretation of flower microbiomes. We aim to understand the complex interplay between plant genotype/phenotype and outside environmental factors on the floral microbiome—a key influential factor being pollinator interactions. Students complete pollinator visitation observations to understand the kinds and types of pollinators that could interact with their flowers and log their findings in iNaturalist.

BIOSC1285: GENOMICS LABORATORY 36 students This course is designed to guide students through the basics of the metagenomic approach to study the association of a host and its microorganisms. Using an insect model, students examine the diversity of microbes associated with the insect gut and study the potential roles of microbiota in the biology of the host (parasitism, commensalism, symbiosis, etc.). This course discussed pollination in relation to the insect hosts used in the course (e.g., bumblebees, bees, wasps, etc.). BS1350: INTRO TO PLANT BIOLOGY 40 undergraduates This course presented an in-depth overview of plant structure, function, development, ecology, and evolution, and discussed insects and pollination in relation to plant biology. BIOSC 1420: WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & MANAGEMENT 20 undergraduates This course included hands-on field trips around the Lake Pymatuning area and discussions of insects and pollination in the context of wildlife management. They touch upon pollinator impacts on community and habitat dynamics and the ecology of selected PA native pollinator species. BIOSCI 1445: ANIMAL COMMUNICATION 61 students The objective of the course is to integrate general principles of biology, physics, chemistry, and economics to understand the diversity and evolution of animal communication. The second half of the course focuses on sensory modalities such as vision and chemical signals. For example, students discuss the evolution of color vision and how flower color matches visual systems in pollinators. BIOSCI 1615: ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION IN YELLOWSTONE 10 students This study away course has students learning in the context of Yellowstone's native ecology about the evidence and reasons for the decline in the abundance of pollinator communities, the phenological mismatch between pollinators and their plants, and mutualisms between pollinators and their plants. BIOSCI 1285: EVOLUTION 30 students While learning about evolution the class covers the topic of invasive species competing with native plants and native pollinator species. ENGR 1909/2009; HRS 1909; GEOL 1307: INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS 25 students Sustainable Food Systems' students participated in several class projects that included the importance of pollinators to our food system. Lectures included a beekeeper at Hilltop Urban Farm, a walking lecture on urban ecosystems and the importance of native plants, and work at several urban farms. GEOL 1333: SUSTAINABILITY 57 undergraduate students Taught in both Fall and Spring semesters, this course regularly originates student projects focused on campus sustainability, which often includes sustainability-focused student course projects in partnership with the Pitt Grounds team to benefit pollinators. The most notable 2024 pollinator-related projects were creating a proposal for bike shelters with pollinator green roofs, a bird strike analysis of campus with efforts to implement solutions, and a project creating educational outreach materials for the pollinator gardens located on campus. NON-CREDIT In 2024, a total of 1,743 students and employees took continuing education courses that included pollinator-related content. EMPLOYEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The University of Pittsburgh

offers employees a Sustainability Professional Certificate for employees that includes a 2-hour core class titled “The Environment, Ecosystems, and You.” This session includes pollinator-related information relating to campus initiatives, pollinator and rain gardens, and the biodiversity impacts of climate change. In 2024, this course was taught 2 times to 41 total attendees. In 2024, the “Sustainable Landscapes” elective was taught once to 18 attendees. This 2-hour class is a deep dive into what pollinators are, why they are important, and what landscape practices support pollinators. It concludes with a campus tour of pollinator and rain gardens. OSHER LIFE LONG LEARNING: Continuing education courses taught by the University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that included pollinator-related information included: 1) Understanding World Cultures – 133 enrolled 2) Stay Current in Food and Nutrition – 49 enrolled 3) Early Spring Hiking – 30 enrolled 4) How to Garden: Simple Steps to Create a Successful Landscape – 102 enrolled 5) Can We Stop Climate Change? – 29 enrolled 6) Geology of America’s National Parks – 122 enrolled 7) What is Our Human Evolution Story – 20 enrolled 8) Five Big Global and Regional Trends in World Geology – 117 enrolled 9) Foundations of Sustainability – 36 enrolled 10) Embracing Plant-Based eating – 102 enrolled 11) Summer Gardening and Preparing for Fall – 99 enrolled 12) Pittsburgh Rivers and Waterways – 90 enrolled 13) The inductive Origins of Darwin’s Origin – 118 enrolled 14) Secret Lives of Familiar Birds – 169 enrolled 15) Wild Edibles of the Fall – 27 enrolled 16) The Dawn of Everything: Humans Before Agriculture – 44 enrolled 17) What Makes the Grand Canyon “Grand”? – 124 enrolled 18) Hiking and observing the Fall Season – 57 enrolled 19) Fundamentals of Evolution – 104 enrolled PROVOST ACADEMY (NON-CREDIT): Pitt’s Provost Academy is an annual program for incoming students to have an opportunity to adjust to campus and bond with other incoming first-year students over a common interest. In 2024, the University of Pittsburgh’s week-long Pitt Provost Academy non-credit course, “Urban Ecology & Sustainable Food Systems” taught 17 students about the important role of pollinators in our urban food system, how to support native species, and planted multiple species that help support local pollinators. TREE TENDERS: The University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Sustainability began hosting Tree Tender trainings in partnership with Tree Pittsburgh in 2022. This course covers urban forestry practices, tree biology and health, basic tree identification, the importance of trees, proper pruning and maintenance, and how to lead your community in organizing tree plantings and tree care. Pitt’s Tree Tender trainings are free and open to all Pitt students, faculty, and staff, with the understanding that they will volunteer to help grow and protect the local tree canopy which in turn helps support native pollinator species. In 2024, 95 new Pitt community members became certified.

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

12

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

3042

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

22

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

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

MCSI's Undergraduate Research Program Summer Service Projects On June 13, 2024, 15 undergraduate student researchers from Pitt's Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation gathered for an afternoon of service with Tree Pittsburgh as one of their summer 2024 service projects. Students learned tree maintenance skills and put them to use in Pittsburgh's South Oakland neighborhood near campus to tend to street tree beds and prune and mulch recently planted young trees. These street trees are vital to pollinators in an urban setting by providing food, shelter, and a space for native pollinator species to lay their eggs. Urban Ecology & Sustainable Food Systems Service Projects In 2024, the University of Pittsburgh's week-long Pitt Provost Academy non-credit course, "Urban Ecology & Sustainable Food Systems," taught 17 incoming first-year students about native plant species and the importance of pollinators. As part of this course, students completed service projects including planting garden beds at Pitt's Healthy Home Lab with pollinator-friendly seeds, pulling invasive plants for 4 hours with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (to help native tree saplings thrive), and planting 26 native trees on-campus on Vera Street behind Pitt's Peterson Sports Complex to help support native pollinator species. This class planted 6 Allegheny Serviceberries, 4 Fringe trees, 6 Pagoda Dogwoods, 4 Kentucky Coffee trees, and 6 Eastern White Pines trees. Trees were provided by local nonprofit Tree Pittsburgh. Pitt Tree Tender Volunteering (Students & Employees) In July 2024, Pitt Tree Tenders cared for 25 street trees planted around the Zulema Parklet. In partnership with local nonprofit organization Tree Pittsburgh, volunteers removed weeds from tree pits and mulched trees to ensure moisture retention during hot summer days. This included caring for multiple trees that are considered host species for local pollinators. >>>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/pitt-tree-tenders-making-a-difference-2024/> Homewood Gardening Day with Urban Planning Club On September 29, 2024, Pitt students volunteered at an urban garden in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Homewood. 9 volunteers helped prepare the garden beds for winter so plants could survive the harsh weather and bloom in Spring as an early food source for pollinators. Native Seed Collection and Stratification by Conservation Club In Fall 2024, Pitt's Conservation Club (with the help of the University's Pollinator Habitat Advisory Committee) collected seeds from on-campus pollinator gardens and green spaces. They then separated the seeds from their casings and stored them for planting. Later that semester, the Club hosted a seed stratification day where students prepared containers and commenced with winter sowing to ensure new native species were available to local expand pollinator gardens in the future. 16 student volunteers helped with this project.

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

5

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

65



9 students from the University of Pittsburgh helped winterize a local urban garden in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Homewood in September 2024



University of Pittsburgh Conservation Club students collected seeds from on-campus native plant species and learned how to stratify them for winter sowing, with the goal of using these plants to enhance gardens.

Policies & Practices

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

The University of Pittsburgh published its “Sustainable Landscape Design Guidelines” in April 2017, which were created in consultation with Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The University’s Sustainable Landscape Design Guidelines address landscape design criteria including plant selection (native and adaptable only), minimizing hardscape and using permeable materials, stormwater management, habitat, biodiversity, and other ecosystem services. The guidelines are aligned with the University’s achievement of having our Head of Grounds and several landscaping personnel earn Sustainable Landcare Accreditation; this “Division S” is part of the University’s larger Planning, Design, Construction, and Facilities Design Manual: <https://www.pdc.pitt.edu/services> The University of Pittsburgh practices pollinator-friendly pest management, as outlined in the Division S: Sustainable Landscape Design Guidelines. The guidelines state that pesticide usage is to be minimized, and other sustainable best practices should be used (e.g., planting hearty native species and manual removal of invasives). The following excerpts are from the Division S guidelines: •“Minimize use of synthetic fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and de-icing salts that have adverse

effects on plant” p.15 • “Use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticide, and herbicides is prohibited, except for starter fertilizer used in establishing lawn grasses and the like” p.21 • “Prohibit materials, including but not limited to: chemically treated wood and paper, dyed and chemically treated mulches, plastic and non-woven geotextile fabrics that contain PVC (polyvinyl chloride), synthetic burlaps, galvanized steel, mulch made from recycled rubber tires, synthetic fertilizer, synthetic pesticides and herbicides, sewage sludge, raw manure, triple superphosphate, muriate of potash, synthetically derived sulfates, calcium and magnesium, genetically modified seed.” p.24 Read Pitt’s Sustainable Landscape Guidelines: <https://www.pdc.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/assets/DesignManualDivisionS.pdf>

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

In June 2020, the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Public Works announced that “seven city parks will be maintained under a Green/Eco Landscaping Contract, providing organic and/or natural landscaping without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides, in line with City of Pittsburgh DPW landscaping operations.”

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/4034> Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens does extensive local education (including with Master Gardeners) about Ecofriendly Pest Management, including via this Guide:

<https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/green-innovation/at-home/greener-gardening-guide/eco-friendly-pest-management-guide>

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

The University of Pittsburgh has TWO (2) external Integrated Pest Management (IPM) vendors, BOTH of whom hold the GreenPro certification, which recognizes pest management companies committed to providing commercial and residential customers with reduced risk, comprehensive, and effective pest control services. 1) Witt Pest Management handles IPM in general and educational buildings (including any building-specific dining areas contained within these shared function facilities) managed by Pitt’s Facilities Management office. 2) Ehrlich handles IPM in University Residence Halls and Food Service facilities managed by Pitt’s Facilities Management office.

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
- 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



As part of the University of Pittsburgh's sustainable landscape practices, a herd of goats visited to campus to chomp on invasive species to their hearts content.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

NA

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-pittsburgh-pa/report/2024-02-13/IN/innovation-leadership/IN-29/>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Campus-Pollinator-Habitat-Plan.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.tremendousllc.com>

<https://www.sustainable.pitt.edu/team-member/pollinator-habitat-advisory-committee/sustainability@pitt.edu>

<https://instagram.com/pittsustainability>