

Bee Campus USA - University of Rochester

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 organization, URBCC, as well as students from our studio arts facility worked together to create a striking bee habitat fixture, dubbed the "Suboptimal Sanctuary", in order to raise awareness of the bees and pollinators in our area. Our organization mainly dealt with the information/teaching aspects of the fixture while the studio arts students took our ideas and information and made it a reality. To build the fixture wood and other sustainably sourced building materials were brought together to create many honeycomb-like patterns along the sign with cork material placed inside to act as a pseudo-habitat for them. While the fixture was being built members from our committee got involved in figuring out where to place the sign, in order to maximize traction, as well as designing a small blurb to explain the point of the fixture and to spread awareness. This project was made with the goal of spreading awareness to both the University of Rochester students as well as the greater Rochester community. And hopefully with the project now being up more people in the area will become more active in conservation efforts going forward.

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?

16

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

5

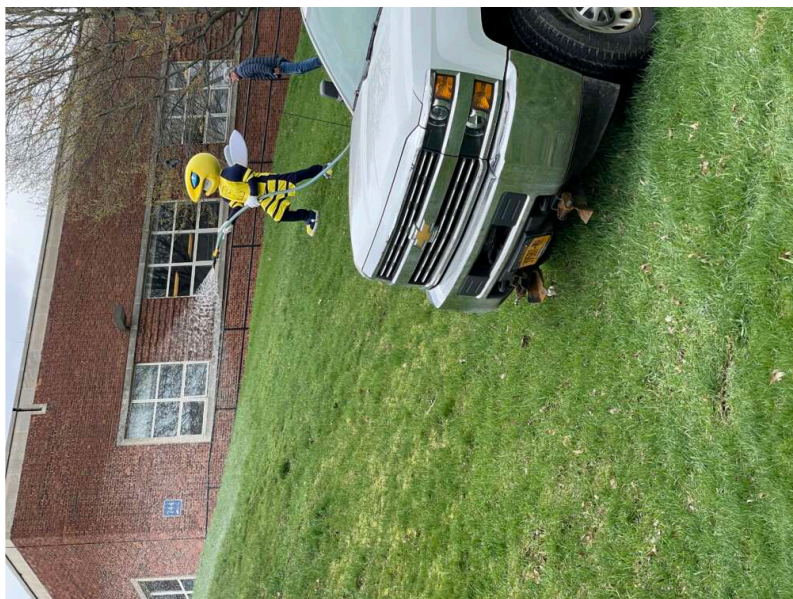
How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

75

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

- Flower garden
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Rocky the Bee helping UR BCC water our first messy meadow in early Spring. Photo by Adam Fenster



Students who attended our first planting event in Spring 2023- just after becoming an affiliate. Photo by Adam Fenster

Education & Outreach

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

Throughout 2024 the University of Rochester bee Campus Committee was involved in doing multiple gardens/planting events all across our campus. To accomplish this we have and still are heavily involved with faculty on our campus, mainly our horticulture and grounds service members, in order to correctly identify areas that need/could use plantings as well as making sure we have the manpower and resources to get beneficial plantings done and getting the University to think/act in a more conservationist way. Our committee hosted all of the plantings we did at this time. Our organization also aided other groups on campus in their conservation goals. Projects such as a river clean-up had the full support of URBCC and we contributed our members towards making not only our campus but our community as a whole more friendly to pollinators and native animals/plants. While our committee was involved in aiding these clubs we did not host them- instead we made sure they had as much help as we could give them.

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

9

How many people attended those events (in total)?

500

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

1

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

8

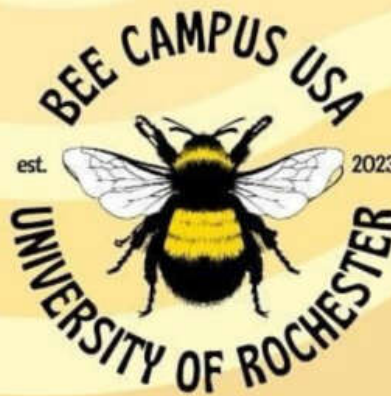
BEE HOTEL MAKING

Not UR Average Monday

All Materials Provided



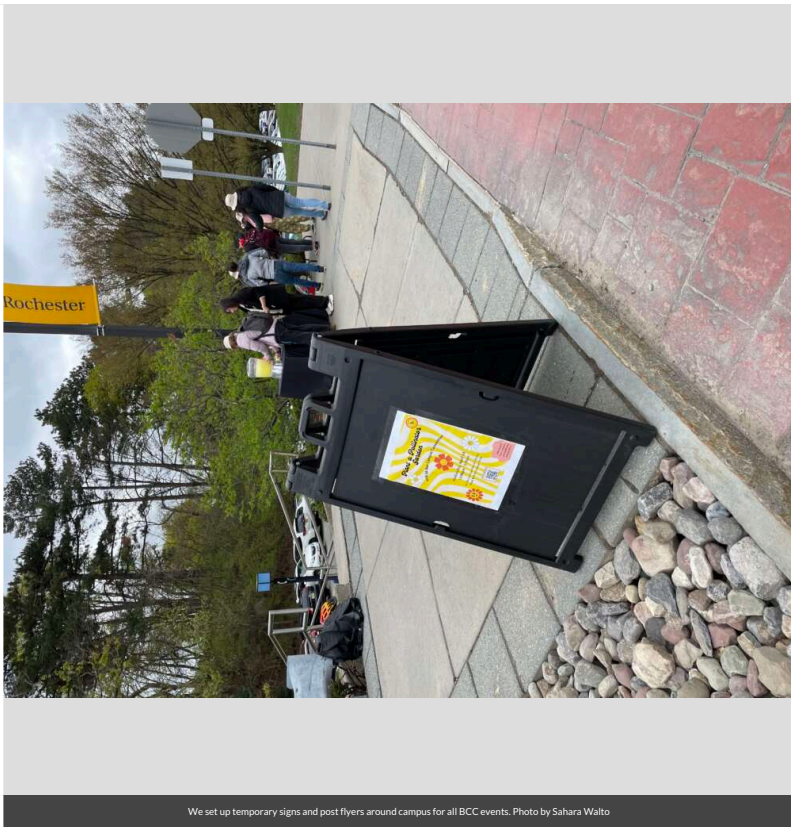
STUDENT
ACTIVITIES
BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



Where: Hirst Lounge

When: 11am-2pm

Flyer for an outreach educational activity cohosted by the student activities board. Designed by Sahara Walto



We set up temporary signs and post flyers around campus for all BCC events. Photo by Sahara Walto



This is the design for our permanent signs to be placed at all pollinator garden locations. We currently have 6 that need signs to be made by facilities team. Design by Nick Vento

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.

Dr Bob Minkley of our committee teaches Bio111- the second 4 credit biology course required of natural science majors. The course broadly covers evolution, diversity, functional biology and ecology in four modules, and is supported by a companion laboratory course that reinforces the topics taught and gives students a glimpse into ecology lab work. Bees are brought up often in the course, but are the main examples presented of important concepts in the evolution and functional biology units. Relevant topics across the 4 units include natural selection and adaptation; climate and biomes; the types of inter-species relationships; ecosystem services; the tragedy of commons; the effects of urbanization on birdsong; evolutionary pressures on many types of pollinators resulting from habitat destruction; symbolic communication, sensory physiology and nesting habits of honeybees;

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

3

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

400

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

2

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

40

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

The Fall studio arts advanced sculpture class taught by Allen Topolski completed a pollinator service-learning project supported by the UR Bee Campus Committee. One of our student co-chairs and Dr Bob Minkley- our committee's resident biology professor- visited the class of 6 students and gave a lecture and Q&A to help them consider how to design a pollinator habitat, and what message they wanted to communicate to the Rochester community about pollinator conservation. They decided to create a piece called the "Suboptimal Sanctuary" to raise awareness for pollinator habitat destruction and how humans are now trying to remedy it.

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



The "Suboptimal Sanctuary" designed and constructed by our advanced sculpture class. Photo by Adam Fenster.

Policies & Practices

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

Our Horticulture and Grounds team has actively identified candidates for and designated several no-mow zones on campus called 'messy meadows'. These spaces are left to overgrow with native vegetation, providing shelter for many insects and animals. Across all areas of the campus, the Horticulture and Grounds team aims to perform lawn care once every 2 or 3 years to avoid disturbing the insects that inhabit the college grounds. The team also follows an IPM plan that includes never using RoundUp, and opting for organic weed killer when the use of pesticides is absolutely necessary. The committee has also received native plants from the National Wildlife Foundation custom-selected for our campus through Garden for Wildlife. These plants were used in planting events on campus, along with native plants regularly used by Horticulture and Grounds.

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

Two of our student members, who joined the Bee Campus Committee this Fall, are senators involved in drafting and passing Student Government legislation. They are our interface with the student government Sustainability and Community Engagement committees, and were brought onto the committee with plans to improve our collaboration with Student Government and other student groups focused on sustainability. We hope to collaborate on legislation and initiatives to increase the protection of pollinators on campus, and get the student and faculty community interested in the Bee Campus mission. We have already had some early success in this- our senators have connected with the Community Outreach chair of Student Government, and we will now be involved in the planning and implementation of a gardening project in the local community. The Plymouth Exchange neighborhood- where many University of Rochester students and staff live- received a \$10,000 grant in January of 2025 to organize a community gardening initiative. While interest from other student organizations is being gauged, Bee Campus will be brainstorming suggestions to maximize the project's benefit to native pollinators.

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

No; Though one of our students has been in contact with many people in an effort to start running workshops in the local area on pollinator-safe practices.

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
- 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>)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

It is important to have student committee members from all class years who are able to contribute to our activities. New student members should be included and educated on committee operations early to ensure seamless transitions when 4th year student members graduate.

Committee Photo



Our committee when we first became an affiliate. Our 2 student co-chairs (far left) have since graduated, but the faculty featured are still important members. Photo by Adam Fenster

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UR IPM Plan.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Plant master list 2021.xlsx](#)

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

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