

Bee Campus USA - University of Wisconsin-River Falls

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.

• **Prairie Restoration through Frost Seeding** – Hosted by the Plant and Earth Science Department, this project involved frost seeding native prairie species in early spring to enhance pollinator habitat. Volunteers broadcast native seeds over a designated restoration area, leveraging natural freeze-thaw cycles to promote germination. This effort aims to establish a diverse, resilient pollinator-friendly landscape over time. • **No-Mow Zones & Reduced Mowing Areas** – UWRF continued its initiative to reduce mowing in select areas, allowing flowering plants such as clover to thrive and provide additional forage for pollinators. The Sustainability Office and Grounds Department collaborated on identifying and maintaining these zones. • **Native Tree & Shrub Planting** – The Sustainability Office, Bee Club, Horticulture Society, Plant and Earth Science Department, and student volunteers planted native trees and shrubs that offer early-season nectar sources for pollinators.

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

2

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

32

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

4

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

1250

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

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Rain garden/bioswale



Students completing a frost seeding event to restore a prairie space on campus.



Students completing a frost seeding event to restore a prairie space on campus.

Education & Outreach

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

UWRF remains committed to pollinator conservation through a variety of outreach activities and hands-on events in 2024. These events engage students, faculty, staff, and community members in learning about and supporting pollinators on campus and beyond. Below is a list of activities: • Campus Cleanups (x2) – Hosted by the Sustainability Office and student volunteer groups including the Bee Club. These events help maintain pollinator-friendly habitats. • Garden Bed Cleanups (x1) – Led by the Grounds Department in collaboration with the Bee Club. This effort prepared pollinator gardens for the growing season. • Seed Collections (x2) – Organized by the Bee Club and Biology Department, participants collected native seeds for restoration efforts. • DIY Beeswax Wraps (x1) – Hosted by the Bee Club, this workshop educated participants on reducing plastic waste while supporting pollinator-friendly products. • Plant Giveaways (x2) – Coordinated by the Sustainability Office and Bee Club, native plants were distributed to encourage pollinator-friendly landscaping. • DIY Seed Packets (x1) – Led by the Bee Club, attendees learned about native plants and took home seed packets for their gardens. • Prairie Restoration (x1) – Plant and Earth Science Department – to restore pollinator-friendly prairie space on campus. • Beeswax Lotion Bars (x2) – Hosted by the Bee Club, participants created natural lotion bars using bee-derived ingredients while learning about sustainable

beekeeping. • Guest Speakers (x3) – Various campus organizations, including the Sustainability Office and Bee Club, hosted experts on pollinators, native plants, and environmental conservation. • Nature Printing (x2) – Led by student groups, these events provided creative engagement with pollinator-friendly plants through artistic printing techniques.

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

19

How many people attended those events (in total)?

283

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

5

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

4





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.

• **Sustainable Agriculture & Pollinator Ecology:** Offered through the Department of Biology and Environmental Studies, this course integrated classroom theory with hands-on fieldwork. Students learned about native plant species, pollinator habitat creation, and ecologically-based pest management. • **Environmental Policy & Resource Management:** This interdisciplinary course examined policies affecting pollinator health and waterway protection. Coursework included case studies on local pesticide regulations and sustainable campus practices. • **Webinars & Community Forums:** These sessions, available to both campus and community members, provided updates on best practices in pollinator conservation, habitat restoration, and sustainable landscaping. • **Guest Lectures & Seminars:** Regular seminars featuring experts complemented formal coursework and extended learning opportunities for the campus community.

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

10

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

300

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

☑ Campus clean ups x2 ☑ Garden bed clean ups x1 ☑ Seed collections x2 (one through a course) ☑ Prairie Restoration x1 (through a course) ☑ Volunteering at Grow To Share Community Gardens x1 ☑ Monarch Tagging x1

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

7

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

176



A class and additional student volunteers engaging in a monarch butterfly tagging project.



Volunteer group at the Grow To Share Community Gardens



Students participating in a seed collection event

Policies & Practices

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

UWRF continues to integrate pollinator-friendly pest management practices across campus. These efforts aim to reduce harm to beneficial insects while maintaining responsible landscape and facility management. Key actions in 2024 include:

- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Approach** – UWRF prioritizes non-chemical pest control methods, including habitat modification, biological controls, and mechanical removal, to reduce reliance on pesticides.
- **Reduced Pesticide Use** – The Grounds Department has limited the use of neonicotinoids and other pollinator-harming pesticides, only applying targeted treatments when absolutely necessary and avoiding blooming periods when pollinators are active.
- **Selective Herbicide Application** – When herbicides are needed for invasive species control, staff use spot treatments rather than broad applications to minimize impact on pollinator-friendly plants.
- **Educational Outreach on Pollinator-Safe Practices** – The Sustainability Office and Bee Club hosted events on pollinator-friendly landscaping and organic pest control methods to promote awareness among students and staff.
- **Collaboration with Grounds Staff** – The Sustainability Office works closely with the Grounds Department to continually assess and

improve campus landscape management strategies for pollinator health.

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

There are ongoing efforts to reduce pesticide use and implement policies that protect pollinators, human health, and local waterways. This is not currently in the form of formal policies, however there is growing interest and support for these efforts.

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

Yes, members of our grounds staff, Sustainability Office, and Bee Club attended webinars and other presentations related to reducing use of pesticides.

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Hands on service-learning events are a great way to engage members of the campus community.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://www.uwrf.edu/Facilities/upload/UWRF-IPM.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant List: [Plant List.docx](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [NATIVE PLANT SUPPLIERS.pdf](#)

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

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