Bee Campus USA - University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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.

The Bee Campus Committee Hosted 2 garden workdays in the spring and 3 garden workdays in the fall. During these garden workdays, students, faculty, and staff worked together to weed garden beds, trim plants, and plant new seeds or plants. The committee is working with the City of Stevens Point and their Lawns Gone Native program, which encourages homeowners to convert lawn space to native plantings. One committee member is working directly with the public to choose plants that provide pollinator habitat.

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

3

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

20

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

3

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

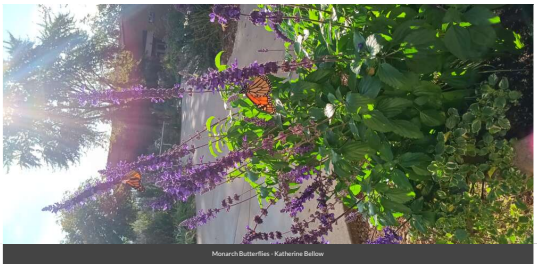
80000

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

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- 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
- School garden


Garden Workday - Katherine Bellow


Garden Workday - Katherine Bellow


Monarch Butterflies - Katherine Bellow

Education & Outreach

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

The Bee Campus USA Committee collaborated with other student organizations on campus for Earth Week to create a Make-it Take-it Event. Members from the committee helped to gather supplies and prepare materials to create a hummingbird feeder. The hummingbird feeder is not directly related to bees, but it helped to bring awareness to the Bee Campus USA Committee. The Bee Campus Committee pushed the university to participate in and expand No Mow May on the campus. We started out with one lawn in 2023 and expanded it to three total areas in 2024 Our committee tabled at the Campus Sustainability Fair in October to tell students about the pollinator related activities that our campus participates in. We worked with the City of Stevens Point and the Lawns Gone Native Program, to monitor native bee and other pollinators in lawns and on campus throughout the growing season. We participated in a public presentation on native plants and native pollinators.

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

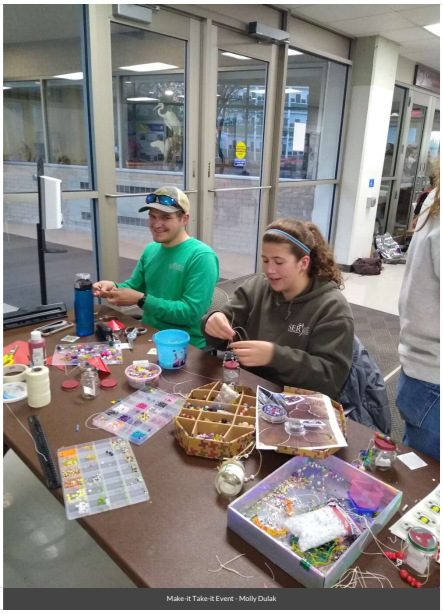
6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

50

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

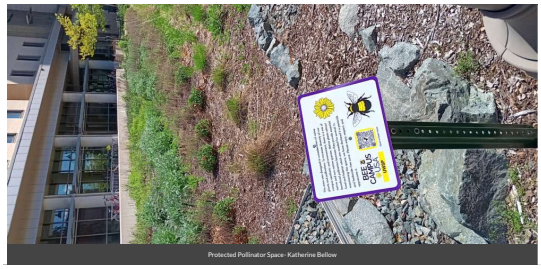
3



Make-it Take-it Event - Molly Dulak

Spring Garden Workday- Katherine Bellow

No Mow May- Katherine Bellow



Protected Pollinator Space- Katherine Bellow

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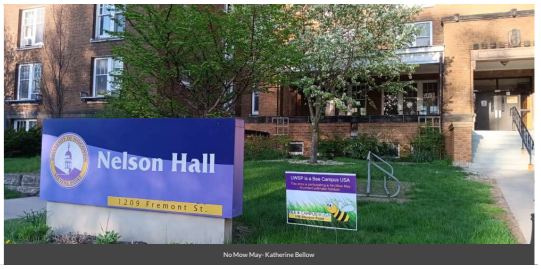

No Mow May- Katherine Bellow

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 course information related to identifying pollinator groups, including bees, flies, butterflies, and other taxa, as well as planting bee-friendly trees and shrubs, and other forestry practices that encourage pollinator habitat. What people can do to promote pollinators and provide habitat; covers no-mow May and other events students can participate in; describes what the UWSP campus is doing to promote pollinators and habitat. How to manage certain habitats for pollinator species; lab component includes planning and seeding managed properties with seed mixes that are beneficial to pollinator species. One committee member participated in a continuing education course through the University of Minnesota on bumble bee of the Midwest ID.

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

10

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

900

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

NA

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XERCES SOCIETY
for Invertebrate Conservation

Bumble bee survey on campus, August 2024 (photo credit: Holly Petrillo)

Policies & Practices

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

The committee does not have direct control over the actions of pest management; however, we did work to update the IPM Plan in the fall. The Lead Gardener who works on Grounds is a member of the Bee Campus Committee. She has dedicated her time to make the updates to the IPM. The gardener is an advocate for pollinator protections on campus, ensuring safety, awareness, and constantly instilling conservative methods of pesticide applications in the grounds department.

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

Lawns gone native is an initiative that has started in the city of Stevens Point to allow landowners produce pollinator friendly native garden spaces in their lawns without getting fined.

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

No

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

UWSP FACILITY SERVICES GROUNDS WORK UNIT

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a systematic approach to controlling pests that combines common sense practices to eliminate favorable conditions for pests with minimal pesticide use, only when other methods have failed. The UW-Stevens Point IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices and the use of resistant planting varieties. We use pesticides only after monitoring indicates other alternatives are not effective according to established guidelines. We select and apply pest control materials in a manner that minimizes risks to health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. Ultimately our goal is to reduce our use and need of chemical pest removal methods.

1. Monitoring

We monitor areas of campus for the type and number of problems caused by pests. We set an action threshold, a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate control action must be taken. Monitoring population and damage caused by pests allows for determination of appropriate control decisions that can be made in conjunction with the action threshold. Monitoring and identification remove the possibility of pesticides will be used when they are not needed, or the wrong product is used to address. One commonly practiced non-chemical method includes daily monitoring and maintenance of hand tools to remove weeds. Also, plucking pests like Japanese beetles from our plants by hand and dropping them in soapy water is a method of non-chemical management.

2. Mowing

We mow most of the turf on campus at 3". We mow some of our athletic fields shorter than 3". By keeping turf grass at shorter levels, benefits include weed die out due to decreased competition from shaded root zones. All machines are cleaned and inspected after use to ensure no transfer of diseased material or pests. Fall clean-up includes both the removal of excess leaves as well as mulching the leaves and leaving them in place to eventually break down and benefit the soil. Since 2023 our campus has participated in No Mow May in specified areas and provide signage verifying engagement. Bee Campus Committee has successfully made efforts each year to expand No Mow May designated areas which has included involvement from other departments of campus like Residential Living.

IPM- Katherine Bellow

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

No

Committee Photo

UWSP Committee- Dave Barbier

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:
https://www3.uwsp.edu/facsv/Grounds%20Documents/UWSP-IPM%20Information.pdf
Recommended Native Plant List:
https://p.widencdn.net/tanvm9/NH0936
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:
https://pipelakes.org/pipewp/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Wisconsin-Native-Plant-Nurseries.pdf

https://www.uwsp.edu/campus-life/sustainability/
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