Bee Campus USA - Washtenaw Community College

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.

Each spring, the college Landscape & Grounds Department plants thousands of vibrant annual flowers chosen for both their beauty and ability to support local pollinators on campus. Some of the species include Lantana, Lobularia, Angelonia, Salvia, Zinnia, Verbena, and Marigold. Milkweed is grown on campus in the WCC Food Forest and along the path by the nature walk. The WCC Seed Library also offers free milkweeds (Hello Yellow and Butterfly Week varieties) for students, employees, and community members to take and grow. The Food and Farm Club also planted and distributed native sunflower seeds harvested from WTMC pollinator gardens to celebrate Earth Day. Health students planted and transplanted over 50 native pollinator plants at the WTMC student farm. The Food and Farm Club repaired six raised beds containing native pollinator plants, harvested seeds, and prepared to expand the farm's pollinator beds. The committee has been working and planning on a new indigenous herb garden to be installed in 2025.

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?

147

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

4

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

21534

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
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species

- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden

WCC Lavender Path 2024, photo credit S. McCarthy


WCC Campus Entrance Annual Planting 2024 photo credit: J. Podolak


WTMC The Food and Farm Club 2024 photo credit: S. McCarthy

Education & Outreach

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

In 2024, WCC Bee Campus USA organized several outreach activities for our community. These included: Fun with Winter Seed Sowing virtual program and a short discussion on pollinators in early spring; In April, WCC offered Walk in the Natural Areas led by the Students for Sustainability (S4S) leaders Tim Porsche and Robb Korns, and Building the Motor City Bee Highway with Brian Peterson-Roest, founder of Bees in the D; WCC participated in the "No Mow May" initiative in spring 2024.; In June, the Bailey Library created an awareness and display celebrating Pollinator Week; in September offered two campus walks, WCC Native Bee Campus Walk with Stefanie Steele, Detroit Xerces Society and

Nature Walk Wildflowers with Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Leaders. These activities aim to educate and engage the community about the importance of pollinators and conservation efforts.

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

8

How many people attended those events (in total)?

350

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

6

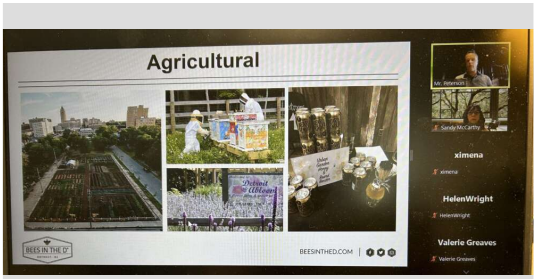
WCC Campus Bee Walk with Detroit Xerces Society
Stefanie Steele – September 2024

WCC Native Bee Campus Walk with Detroit Xerces Society Stefanie Steele, September 2024, photo credit: S. McCarthy

WCC Seed Sorting 2024

WCC Students for Sustainability Club and WTMC 2024 Students

WCC Seed Library Seed Sorting with WTMC students and WCC S4S Club 2024, photo credit: S. McCarthy



WCC Webinar Building the Motor City Bee Highway photo credit S. McCarthy

WCC Pollinator Garden, Xerces Society Habitat Para Polinizadores. 2024 photo credit: S. McCarthy

Figure 1. Bee Informed Sign

Figure 2. What is a Food Forest? Sign.

Figure 3. What are Areas of Natural Beauty? Sign.

Figure 4. Bee Campus USA and WCC sign.

Graphic display of our series of permanent educational signs highlighting pollinators and special habitats, installed throughout campus. The last sign was placed in 2023 as part of our new pollinator garden installed by students and staff.

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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.

WCC bee and pollinator curriculum engagement for 2024 included credit courses BIO 101, 107, 161, 227, and ENV 105 offered in the Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall semesters. In addition to those courses, two specific bee projects were embedded into student projects. The projects included VID 276 Video Graphics I – basic video design with hillside and bee project, and the WTMC Food and Garden Club (Hoop House) managed by WTMC. The WCC Food Forest is maintained and managed by the Students for Sustainability Club (S4S) offering pollinator-related projects embedded into their learning. WCC Corporate Training & Lifelong Learning offered 18 non-credit classes related to pollinators. Washtenaw Technical Middle College (WTMC) is a high school located on the campus of Washtenaw Community College. It features a campus garden and is home to the Food and Farm Club. This garden has helped WTMC further its mission of exploring sustainable practices and has enabled many community members to start their gardens. Providing education and resources for everyone in the academic and broader community to grow a portion of their food embodies the principles of inclusion and social justice. The 2024 curriculum projects focused on pollinator-related themes, including: Between April and December 2024, WTMC engaged students in various pollinator-focused activities that supported sustainability, education, and biodiversity: Spring 2024: Over 40 varieties of open-pollinated, non-GMO seeds sourced locally through the WCC Seed Library were planted. In April, 120 science students conducted labs on pollinator flower anatomy and the role of pollinators in plant reproduction. The Food and Farm Club also planted and distributed native sunflower seeds harvested from WTMC pollinator gardens to celebrate Earth Day. Summer 2024: Health students planted and transplanted over 50 native pollinator plants at the WTMC student farm. Fall 2024: The Food and Farm Club repaired six raised beds containing native pollinator plants, harvested seeds, and prepared to expand the farm's pollinator beds. Winter 2024: Ninth-grade science students sorted seeds for the WCC Seed Library, contributing to community sustainability efforts. Through these initiatives, WTMC strengthened its commitment to pollinator preservation and sustainability education while actively engaging students in hands-on learning. WCC Continuing Education WCC Corporate Training & Lifelong Learning offered 18 non-credit classes related to bees and pollinators in 2024. The classes offered included Common Backyard Birds of Winter, Houseplants: Common Problems, Winter Seed Sowing, All About Hummingbirds, Organic Gardening: Integrative Pest Management, Butterflies, Attracting Birds to Your Garden, Animal Pests in the Home Landscape, Organic Gardening: Season Extension and Cool Season Crops, Plant Propagation Basics, Organic Gardening: Growing Food 2, Animal Pests in the Home Landscape, Good Bugs, Bad Bugs, Organic Gardening: Composting and Soil Fertility, Organic Gardening: Weed Management, Fall Gardening Chores, Fall Gardening Tips, and Spring-Flowering Bulbs.

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

64

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

1319

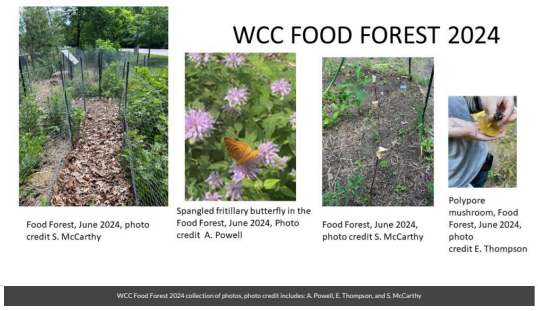
How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?
18

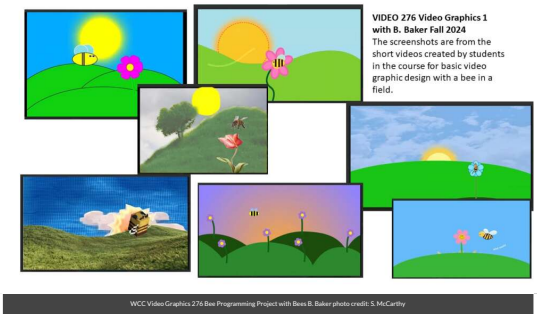
How many participants attended those continuing education courses?
119

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2024, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.
The Food Forest continues to be a dynamic Club run by students with Emily Thompson, Ph.D. Biology faculty and club advisor. Many events are planned and run each semester. We are known as the "Club that actually does things!" We won multiple awards last year for "Best Club," "Best Advisor," and "Best Student Leader." The WCC Food Forest service learning projects are part of student clubs. In July and August, we had weekly meetings to weed, water, and harvest. In September, we had weekly meetings in the Food Forest, including a special one to plant garlic and onions. In October, we continued weekly meetings in the Food Forest with one special day to gather seeds. On October 20, we had a special gathering for Harvest Day, where we harvested food from the Food Forest and put the Food Forest to bed for the winter. In December, we had a Plant propagation workshop and an end-of-year celebration.

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?
125





WCC Earth Week April 4, 2024

WCC Earth Day April 4, 2024. Bee Campus USA / Seed Library table Free 200 Thyme herb starters. Photo credit: S. McCarthy

Seed Pod Workshop Save the Bees Flower Pods 2024

Seed Pods for pollinators, 2024 photo credit: S. McCarthy

WCC Nature Walk Wildflowers and Pollinators photo credit: E. Thompson

Policies & Practices

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

WCC maintains a written IPM Plan and reviews management practices annually for updates and revisions. The IPM plan outlines a four-tiered approach not to eliminate pests, but to find a balance in the landscape. Our program avoids all pesticide use in sensitive areas, such as the Food Forest, WTMC Hoop House, green roofs, and other designated pesticide-free zones. We utilize and specify that contractors must use pollinator-friendly products such as Acelepryn for turf care in lieu of neonicotinoids. WCC is also increasing the use of bio-pesticides, developed from naturally occurring compounds or agents that are obtained from animals, plants, and microorganisms. Other management practices include installing chipped mulch to all landscape planting beds and tree bases, conducting controlled burns in native plantings, and hand weeding to reduce pesticide applications for controlling invasive and undesirable weeds. Plant materials and shrubs that are known to require pesticide applications for sustaining proper health are avoided, and pest-free native and adaptive plant materials are utilized instead for new campus plantings.

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

No new policy initiatives are underway at this time.

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

Landscape & Grounds staff attend regular training on the proper use of pesticides, and are required to be licensed by the State of Michigan to handle and apply pesticides to the landscape. CEU's are obtained annually from attending seminars, classes, and site tours on research studies, pesticide alternatives, and best practices. Proper timing, application rate, correct pest identification, education, etc. are all factors that contribute to reducing pesticide use. We are active members of the Michigan Green Industry Association and Professional Grounds Management Society and routinely attend training sessions on protecting pollinators, integrated pest management, and sustainable 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 use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

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WCC Food Forest 2024, pesticide free zone, photo credit: S. McCarthy

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

The WCC Bee Campus USA Committee continues to meet and reflect on ways to enhance awareness of our campus designation. Here are some key lessons we've learned: 1. Collaboration among faculty, student services, departments, grounds maintenance, and landscaping is essential for a successful program. 2. Our students and community have a strong interest in bees and pollinators. 3. We are committed to sharing our knowledge and experiences with neighboring Bee City and Bee Campus USA programs. We plan to engage with the Ypsilanti Bee Campus USA, the AA Environmental Committee/Pollinator Committee, and the UofM Bee Campus USA. 4. To document pollinator activities and projects throughout the year, we will create a shared folder for collecting information as events are scheduled and completed. This will also include photos. 5. We aim to promote WCC Bee Campus USA among college constituents. 6. Maintaining an online presence for WCC Bee Campus USA is important, and we will ensure our webpage is up-to-date.

Committee Photo

WCC Bee Campus USA Committee, 2024, photo credit: S. McCarthy

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: IPM Plan LandscapeGrounds 2024.pdf
https://libguides.wccnet.edu/BeeCampus/habitat_plan
Recommended Native Plant List: Athletic Field Bioswale Plant List.pdf
https://libguides.wccnet.edu/BeeCampus/habitat_plan
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:
http://www.nativeplant.com/index.html

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