

Bee Campus USA - Westfield State University

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 university was involved in two habitat enhancement projects: the first being the addition of approximately 80 square feet to the current pollinator garden. This area was added on and then planted by students. The second project involved removing invasive species from a floodplain forest. The primary invasive species removed was winged burning bush. Pollinator plants were planted in this area during 2023; however, did not survive the year. New plants will be planted in 2025.

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 total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1080

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

- Flower garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting



Students remove winged burning bush from a floodplain forest. Photo Credit: Lauren DiCarlo

Education & Outreach

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

In the fall of 2024, students from the restoration ecology course surveyed pollinators in three separate locations: our pollinator garden, a restored meadow, and a restored floodplain forest. Students collected pollinator data using several methods: blue vane traps, pan traps, and observation. Students identified pollinators and food sources. Students in the horticulture course grew pollinator plants in a greenhouse and planted them in the university pollinator garden. They also sold these plants to the community, using the profits to invest in more pollinator plants.

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

2

How many people attended those events (in total)?



Students monitor a campus pollinator garden for native bees. Photo Credit: Lauren DiCarlo

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.

Students learn about pollinators, including identification, monitoring, and cultivate food sources in ENVS 241: Restoration Ecology, ENVS 341: Ecological Restoration, and ENVS 217: Horticulture. In these courses, students also help maintain a pollinator garden.

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

3

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

Policies & Practices

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

No pesticides are used within pollinator gardens. In areas of habitat enhancement, herbicides are used on invasive species; however, to minimize impact they are only applied using sponge applicators.

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

Currently, there are no initiatives underway.

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

No

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- **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)**

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Not at this time

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [WSU IPM.docx](#)

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

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [WSU Plant List and Suppliers.docx](#)

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