

Bee Campus USA - University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

More pollinator habitat was created with the construction/establishment of phase 2 of the UTRGV pollinator garden (named "Pollinator Cantina"). The extension consisted on the construction of 16 new plant beds edged with reclaimed bricks and the soil ammended with city compost. Of these beds, 10 were planted with native species of perenial herbaceous and small shrubs, and a drip irrigation lines were installed. the remaining beds are being planted (2021). This was accomplished with multiple events of student volunteer days.



Education & Outreach

We hosted Pollinator Day in collaboration with and during HESTEC Hispanic Engineering and Technology Conference among a week long of activities. We had over 120 campus and K-12 students engage in learning activities, receive information packets, and tour the La Cantina Pollinator Garden. Due to COVID 19 we had to cancel our 2020 Earth Fest event. We partnered with the Texas Regional Alliance for Campus Sustainability (TRACS) and Texas EarthX to offer our students, staff and faculty a Texas wide Earth week were we had the opportunity to hear from many incredible presenters. Among these there was a Climate Solutions session that provided specific reference and information about the social, environmental and economic impacts of pollinators. This session was viewed by 72 attendees.





UTRGV students engaged in pollinator research and discovery



RGV K-12 students receiving UTRGV "Whats the Buzz about" information and brochures



UTRGV Pollinator Friends

Courses & Continuing Education

The following courses are for credit: Restoration Ecology; General Biology, Plant Animal Interactions; Cell & Molecular Biology; Sustainable Agriculture; Apiculture Research; Conservation Biology.



Students reviewing educational opportunities



UTRGV students studying bees



New friend at the UTRGV Pollinator Cantina

Service-Learning

Different groups of students participated in different phases of the construction/establishment/planting of the new plant beds. For construction and establishment of the beds, students helped cleaning and positioning the reclaimed bricks to form the edged of the beds. The soil where the new beds were established was compacted by heavy foot traffic; Students helped distributing a thick layer of compost that was then incorporated into the soil with a rototiller, students learned about the importance of organic amendments to rehabilitate degraded soils. Other students participated in the transplanting of native pollinator friendly seedling of multiple species. Other student assisted in the installation of a drip irrigation system .





UTRGV Math & Science Academy students volunteer time to do service learning at the Pollinator Cantina



UTRGV Students helping unload brick for the garden beds at Pollinator Cantina



UTRGV Students helping move compost to garden beds at the Pollinator Cantina

Educational Signage

signage in Brownsville campus include a large welcome sign with changing pollinator information, and 24 small permanent signs with specific information on a plant species and its most frequent pollinator or larval guest. We have also added 15 Bee Campus USA Pollinator Friendly Garden signs between both the Edinburg and Brownsville (10) campus gardens



UTRGV Pollinator Cantina Welcome Sign



UTRGV Plant Species Sign

Policies & Practices

Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan, Avoided use of pesticides in designated pollinator habitat and other sensitive sites (except when targeted herbicide use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed management), Reduced the number of sites where pesticides are used



Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://reports.aashe.org/media/secure/1017/7/659/5033/UTRGV%20Integrated%20Pest%20Management.pdf>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://www.utrgv.edu/pollinatorcantina/en-us/plants/index.htm>

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TX_south

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.valleynaturecenter.org> - <http://heepsplants.com> - <http://www.valleygardencenter.com>



UTRGV Pollinator friendly pest management

Learn More

