

Bee Campus USA - University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Red Bison (a UIUC registered student organization (RSO)) hosts weekly volunteer days for weeding and cutting back invasive species on campus woodland and prairie spaces. The total area of the woodland and prairie where they work to remove invasives is approximately 21.5 acres. The Red Oak Rain Garden, a 9,000 square foot native plant rain garden, has been continually enhanced this past year through volunteer working days and the addition of more plants and plant species. From The Ground Up (the partner RSO to UIUC Bee Campus) received grant funding in Spring 2020 for two habitat restoration projects on campus. This includes the Orchard Down's Plot Restoration project, in which the club is restoring a 3.7-acre local plot of land to a native, low-grass prairie. The other project is the Foreign Language Building Garden Renovation, where the club is revamping the current "rock garden" outside the building to house a variety of native, pollinator-friendly plants in order to establish a new pollinator habitat on campus and increase education surrounding pollinators and native Illinois plants.



A volunteer at the Red Oak Rain Garden getting ready to plant another native specimen.



Another volunteer at the Red Oak Rain Garden helping to plant more natives.

Education & Outreach

The Red Oak Rain Garden (RORG) team of staff and volunteers has hosted numerous webinars and zoom lectures on topics ranging from nutrient loss reduction to greater Illinois conservation projects. They have also run stellar social media



campaigns including the “Mulch Madness” game in March 2020 where participants filled out brackets of native plants and flowers based on which species contestant they thought would receive the most likes when the RORG team posted facts and pictures of them each day throughout the month. In addition to Mulch Madness, RORG posted seasonal highlight series for various native plant species to promote education and awareness; these social media campaigns reached a few thousand people on Facebook and Twitter. UIUC Bee Campus and From The Ground Up (our partner club) would have hosted regular BeeSpotter events and Pollinator Pocket Tours throughout the Spring and Fall semesters of 2020, if the pandemic had not hit. We were hoping to educate our club members, and reach out to more students and University staff and faculty, on techniques for identifying bee species and native plant varieties as well as showing off our various pollinator pockets around campus.



 **beesatuiuc** • Follow
McFarland Bell Tower - South Quad

 **beesatuiuc** Snow-bees!! 🐝
Hope everyone had a fun time at the snow-bee building event yesterday! 🥰
Might have to start a snow sculpture club ❄️
6d

 **uiucfs_sustainability** that is so cool!!!
5d Reply

45 likes
6 DAYS AGO

[Log in to like or comment.](#)

The UIUC BeeKeeping Club hosted an impromptu snow bee sculpting activity during the Winter of 2021! Here's a screenshot from their instagram.

Courses & Continuing Education

One example of a continuing education opportunity on campus that includes sustainability- and pollinator-related



information is the Champaign County Sustainability Network (CCNet). This program hosts monthly virtual lectures and discussions on various sustainability topics! One for-credit course offered regularly on campus is the Ecology of Invasive Species course in the department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

Service-Learning

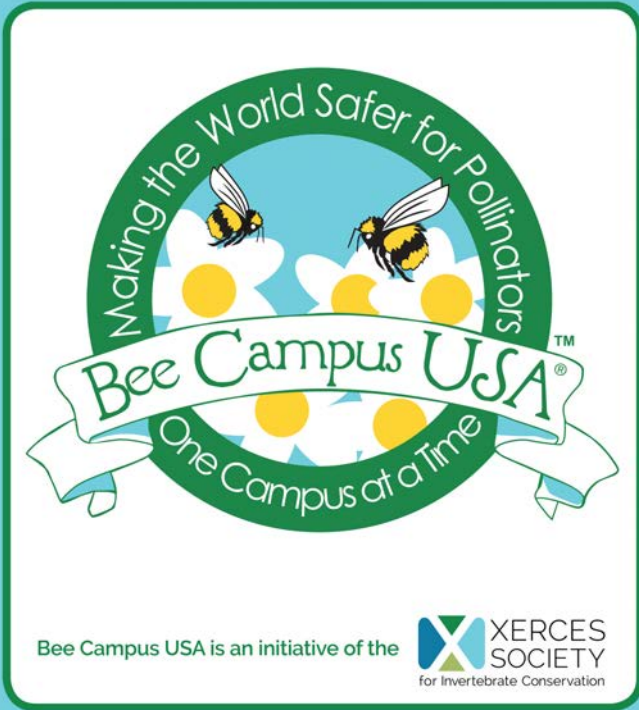
There were two major service-learning event series planned for UIUC's Bee Campus chapter this past year. Both events were canceled due to COVID, but our team is keeping these ideas in mind for the coming year. First, we planned to host a series of workshops in March and April to teach students and community members about the importance of ground- and reed-nesting native pollinator habitats. The goal was to reach a wide audience and educate them on how to build "Bee Homes" for their home or campus gardens; the application of this skill has the potential to exponentially increase pollinator habitats on campus and in the surrounding community, and to foster greater appreciation for pollinators. One event was to take place in collaboration with the UIUC Pollinarium, offering more immersive resources about pollinators and plant ecology to those who attend, and the other event was to take place at the Mother's Day Flower Show. Both had the opportunity to reach people who might be interested but had never been in connection with Bee Campus before. The other event series included volunteer days in collaboration with From the Ground Up's (a campus restoration based club) grant-based projects [projects described in the Enhancing Pollinator Habitat section above]. At these volunteering events, UIUC Bee Campus would have hosted educational lessons and discussions on native plants and wildflowers and their ecological significance with those who attended alongside hands-on volunteering activities such as weeding, seeding, and/or planting plugs. All of these events were aimed at increasing native pollinator education and appreciation and providing resources to students and community members to improve the quality of pollinator habitats in and around the UIUC campus.

Educational Signage

Four permanent Bee Campus signs (7"x9") were installed at pollinator gardens on campus last Spring semester. These signs have the goal of informing pedestrians that while the garden spaces may look unkempt or weedy, they are actually housing native plants that are essential for local pollinator populations. This will educate those who read the sign with the reality of native conservation and the importance of maintaining spaces like these for native plant and animal species.



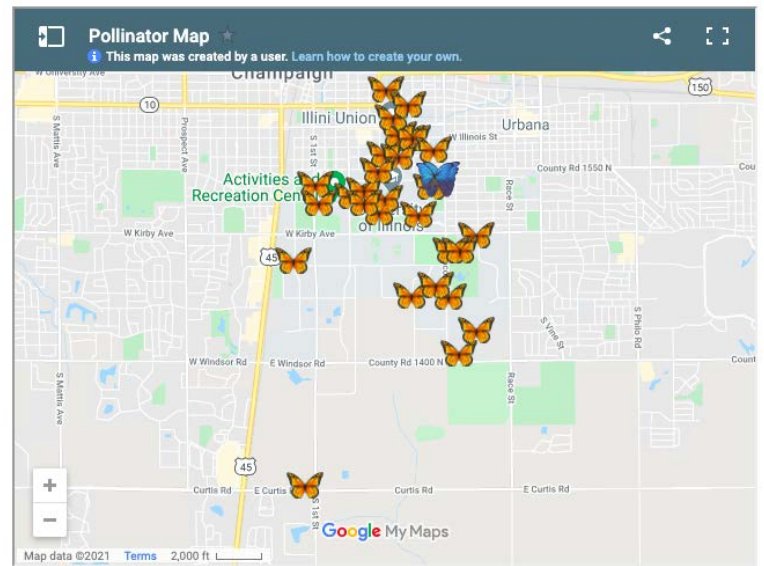
A Proud Bee Campus USA since 2018



ILLINOIS FACILITIES & SERVICES

This sign portrays the Bee Campus USA logo, indicating the use of the spaces with the sign for native pollinators and their habitats.

The [Pollinator Pocket Google Map](#) shows each of the 30 pollinator pocket locations on campus.



While this is not a physical sign, UIUC Facilities & Services created an interactive Pollinator Pockets map to show the locations of the 30 pollinator pockets on campus. This provides accessibility and education for anyone interested, and UIUC Bee Campus finds it extremely helpful!

Policies & Practices

Throughout 2020, UIUC has continued to follow its Integrated Pest Management plan, and in the Fall of 2020, the University approved an updated version of the Illinois Climate Action Plan. Two of the objectives in this plan are to implement a Resilient Landscape Strategy as well as an Urban Biodiversity Master Plan. In the former, strategies include increasing the number of pollinator-friendly landscaping areas from 26 to 39 by April 2024, and enhancing the use of Low-Mow Zones around campus; in the latter objective, there is a focus on installing more native plantings around the greater Champaign-Urbana area.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:



Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



ILLINOIS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2020

I

A screenshot of the cover of the 2020 edition of the Illinois Climate Action Plan. A pdf can be found online at <https://sustainability.illinois.edu/campus-sustainability/icap/>



Learn More

