Bee Campus USA - Syracuse University

Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

During the summer of 2020, 400 square feet of new garden space was added to the campus vegetable garden. Herbs, vegetables, and edible flowers were planted throughout the garden beds, making a great habitat for many pollinators. An apple and two pear trees were added to the garden space also. An additional perimeter garden was integrated along the fence area that surround the vegetable garden space. The perimeter garden was used to grow herbs and tomato plants. Plans are in place to convert this perimeter garden into a pollinator garden during the summer of 2021.







A sign leading to Pete's Giving Garden, highlighting various vegetables and honeybees.

Meg Lowe and Syeisha Byrd, co-managers of Pete's Giving Garden, harvest vegetables from the garden beds.

Education & Outreach

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, all of our events/workshops planned for April 2020, were cancelled as all students





had to leave campus on March 17, 2020. The scheduled hands-on bat house and bee boutique building workshop were planned for April 2020. The workshop was moved to November 2020 and once again, due to Covid 19, it was a cancelled as all students were told to leave campus a second time. This event is now on hold until it can be held safely in person. Other virtual events are planned for April 2021.

Courses & Continuing Education

Students in the School of Visual and Performing Arts took part in designing beehives to be used and tested, once the implementation of the planned six honeybee hives were installed in the spring of 2020. Students spoke to the campus beekeeper about the importance of protecting our pollinators, adding pollinator habitats, native plant species, and they discussed the honeybee behaviors. The student-finished projects, before being tested and used with the six beehives, will be showcased in the 2021 spring exhibit, entitled PolliNation.

Service-Learning

In October of 2020, we hosted a Service Learning opportunity for the School of Design. Over the course of a day, 20 students volunteered for a socially distanced winterization of the campus vegetable garden. While there, each group learned about the progress of the garden and how we incorporated flowers into the beds to create a permaculture environment, rich for pollinators throughout the growing season. This will be an annual event from now on.

Educational Signage

The Bee Campus USA committee worked with a graphic design student to create two temporary digital signs that were displayed across the Syracuse University Campus during spring of 2019 announcing the University's affiliation with Bee Campus USA. The temporary signs will be reused throughout our affiliation with Bee Campus USA. New permanent signs were added to the space around the new honeybee hive enclosure to ensure hikers knew they were near active hives.

Policies & Practices

We have been practicing an Integrated Pest Management, IPM, system for many years. We currently scout the highly maintained turf every day, looking for weeds, harmful insects, disease, and moisture levels in the soil. Through monitoring the pests, we have developed threshold levels. Pesticides are used when the levels of pests have exceeded the threshold and the damage to the turf becomes excessive. By practicing IPM we have gained skills to property identify pest, learned about pest life cycle, and understand the best time to apply pesticides with minimum damage to pollinator species. We are





very specific with the products we use and choose the most effective product to bring the number of pests down to a tolerable level with the least amount of environmental impact.
Integrated Pest Management Plan:
Recommended Native Plant List:
Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

Learn More



