

# Bee Campus USA - East Carolina University

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

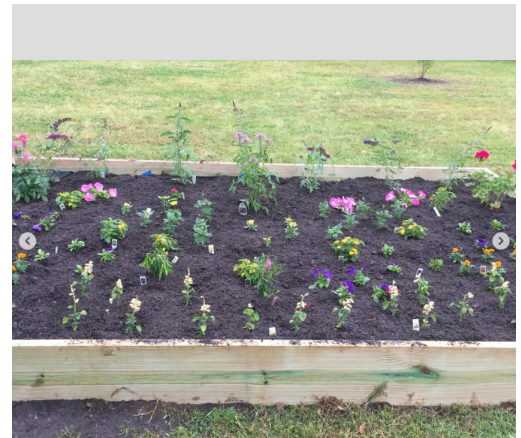
The Honors College group called the Edible Landscaping Initiative planted two small gardens and an orchard last spring on Saturday, April 24. They planted a 5 foot by 5 foot pollinator garden and a 5 foot by 5 foot herb garden. They also planted about 6 pear trees, 4 persimmon trees, and 10 blueberry bushes in an area that was about 50 feet by 100 feet. In addition, we hosted a tree planting event at the Town Creek Culvert just off campus in the Uptown District. The trees that were planted included River Birch and Willow Trees, which will uptake the oil contamination coming from a leaking underground storage tank that was left from an old gas station nearby. These trees will help prevent contamination from reaching the tar river through a process called phytoremediation.



The ECU Orchard



Edible Landscape Initiative - Herb Garden



Edible Landscape Initiative - Pollinator Garden

## Education & Outreach

The East Carolina Sustainabilibees became an officially recognized ECU student organization on May 1, 2021. Their membership really took off when they hosted the Beehive Painting event on March 12 in collaboration with ECU Sustainability Program and they have not slowed down since. They hosted a kickoff meeting and a start a pollinator garden event in September 2021, while the ECU Sustainability Manager hosted honey tastings in both dining halls on campus. In October 2021, they hosted a Tea with the Bees event that attracted over 30 students to checkout the observation beehive and enjoyed tea with our “Pirates Gold” honey in it. In addition, the Sustainabilibees participated in Campus



Sustainability Day on October 27, 2021 and hosted their own “Sustainability Trivia Night” in November 2021.



ECU Sustainability Hosted Honey Tastings at the Dining Halls on Campus



Sustainabilibees Tea with the Bees



Sustainabilibees Table at Campus Sustainability Day

## Courses & Continuing Education

No for-credit or continuing education courses were offered by ECU; however, a group of about 12 ECU students took the local beginner-level beekeeping certification course in fall 2021 and 10 of them successfully passed the exam to become certified beekeepers. These students will be helping maintain our hives on campus this spring and summer.







Members of ECU Sustainability clubs attending Tar River Beekeepers Bee School

## Service-Learning

Honors College students are tasked with solving a “wicked problem” on campus or within the local community. One honors group decided to start a student beekeeping club, called Sustainabilibees. They’ve had an active presence on social media platforms and hosted numerous events in 2021, which has led to several new members joining and becoming more active in the club. This group will be a big help to the University Sustainability Manager when it comes to keeping the beehives on campus. Another honors group completed their project to establish a Campus Orchard and Herb and Pollinator Gardens at Strafford Arms. They raised about \$8,000 in funding and worked with campus grounds staff to purchase the





trees/shrubs/plants. They installed the orchard and gardens on Saturday, April 24, 2021 and have been hosting monthly volunteer workdays to maintain the orchard and gardens.



Sustainabilibees Kickoff Meeting



Edible Landscape Initiative at the ECU Orchard they planted

## Educational Signage

Due to budget restrictions as a result of COVID-19, we did not install any additional signage. However, our real-time, live-streaming camera that shows our beehives on Health Sciences Campus is still available online. See the live feed here: <https://campusoperations.ecu.edu/sustainability/pollinators/>







Real-Time Live-Streaming Webcam at HSC Hives

## Policies & Practices

As stated in our IPM plan, monitoring landscape for pests and diseases is a constant ongoing process for all Grounds employees. ECU Grounds Services staff also look for beneficial insects that may already be working to control pests. The ECU Grounds crew tries not use pesticides near pollinator habitats as a general practice, especially if pollinators are present in an area or adjacent areas that could be affected by drift. Prevention is the first method of our IPM plan, which includes proper cultural and mechanical methods, proper watering, and use of healthy, pest and disease resistant native





plant species.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [ECU IPM Program.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Nursery List.pdf](#)



ReLeaf student organization helping Campus Grounds with mulching to prevent weeds

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[Learn More](#)







Members of the ECU Sustainability Committee including Bee Campus USA Committee

