

# Bee Campus USA - University of North Texas

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

The UNT Community Garden is home to 20 raised plant beds that host native plant species for the purposes of pollination. Part of this garden space is a native plant bed that hosts solely native plant species. In 2021, a project was funded to place a border around the native bed area to protect it from invasive grasses. Multiple workdays have been hosted to help weed out invasives, pull up non-native plants in the area, and plant new additions to the bed. The 'Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie' is a native North Central Texas tallgrass prairie reconstruction project, and it is home to over 700 species of plants and wildlife. In 2021, multiple workdays were held to increase the educational efforts of the prairie. There was also a 'mowing and seeding day' dedicated to the upkeep of this project. Through the collaboration of UNT Facilities Ground crew and a passionate Bee Campus Committee student member, funding was granted through our committee to create a Butterfly Garden just north of the Willis Library at the heart of campus. For this project, the student hosted one event to do planting of native species- specifically butterfly host plants and food plants.



UNT Make A Difference Day at the Community Garden



The UNT Honors College helps with a Native Bed Expansion Project

## Education & Outreach

In 2021, the University of North Texas hosted two BioBlitzes for pollinator research and education. One was co-hosted by student members of the UNT Bee Campus Committee in the University of North Texas Community Garden. Another was hosted at the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie on campus by UNT Bee Campus member Dr. Baxter-Slye. Both events were



to help document what pollinators are using these spaces to inform us of more native species to plant. Two Digital Design classes from the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design created tote bags for the UNT Community Garden. As a part of this process, students within these classes took a tour of the community garden and learned about the various functions of pollinators within the space. Dr. Baxter-Slye also hosted various educational tours at the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie, a space dedicated to North Texas natives with over 700 documented species that live and grow there.



Students have a workday at the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie

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## Courses & Continuing Education

Pollinator related information was covered in various courses through the UNT Department of Biology. These courses ranged from very basic introductions to pollinators in the ecology and environmental science labs, to more in-depth courses related to specific pollinator functions in the environment. The ecology and environmental science students have requirements in the curriculum to do research in the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie, where many pollinators and native plants thrive. Other offered classes include an Insect Biology course and a Behavioral Ecology course; both of which are open to graduate and undergraduate students. Another notable class that has course content related to pollinators is Physiological Ecology in which students study the process that animals and insects, including pollinators, use to survive.

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## Service-Learning

Through our Society for Ecological Restoration student chapter, students were able to partner with residents surrounding campus to map out native plant species to put in their yards. They designed a total of 3 flower beds with native Texas plants. In our Ecology Greenhouse, students have gotten experience with cold stratification of seeds for spring planting in various locations on campus. Through our partnership with the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA), students have had numerous opportunities to learn about and observe pollinator protection and behavior. Opportunities include bird surveys and plant surveys, controlled burns, field research, invasive species removal, and Master Naturalist workshops. At the UNT Community Garden, garden members have the opportunity to learn about pollinator protection through our iNaturalist workshops and BioBlitz competitions. Additionally, they are provided with resources on organic Integrated Pest Management and plant relationships with pollinators. At the Pecan Creek Pollinative Prairie, students had opportunities to do plant surveys through iNaturalist as well as experience installing bee boxes for pollinator protection.



A completed native bed that was designed by a student for city residents to have in their lawn



Students take a tour of the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

## Educational Signage

One passionate UNT student was granted funding through the UNT's Green Fund to create a 'Pollinator Mural' with corresponding signage to be put up in UNT's Community Garden. This sign spotlights 13 different pollinators found in the North Texas area, with artistic renderings of the plants they use for feeding and habitat.







## Policies & Practices

The University of North Texas Grounds Department uses only the safest, lowest toxicity products for effective control of pests. UNT prohibits the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids, and pesticide use was avoided altogether in areas with designated pollinator habitats. The Grounds Department has been increasing their efforts to use non-pesticide management methods, such as propane torches, frequent mulching, and the use of hand tools for weed control. Many plants sourced for campus grounds are from local landscaping shops, and any contractors used for campus grounds are encouraged to use these sources as well. The team also works diligently to identify and mitigate non-native species of plants that currently exist on spaces on campus. The Community Garden at UNT uses only organic methods of pest



management, as well as removal by hand. The Garden Facilitator teaches garden members the basics of organic Integrated Pest Management. The Pollinative Prairie at UNT also only uses organic and hand removal methods of pest management and has seen hawks as a natural predator for pests that are present. The Prairie also got a free consultation from Bill Neiman, owner of Native American Seed, who suggested removing invasive plants by mowing, burning, or potentially using farm animals.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/sites/default/files/sustainability/ipm-plan.pdf>

**Recommended Native Plant List:** [UNT Preferred Native-Adaptive Plant List.xlsx](#)

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:**







Students removing invasive plants by hand

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Learn More

<https://beecampususa.unt.edu/>  
[wemeangreenfund@unt.edu](mailto:wemeangreenfund@unt.edu)

